

Arab summit should be well prepared, Oman says

MUSCAT (R) — Oman and its Gulf Arab allies believe any Arab League summit should be well prepared to ensure its success, a senior Omani official said in an interview published Monday.

Sayed Fahd bin Mahmood, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, also told the government newspaper Oman that the Sultanate favoured holding the summit when a majority of Arab states had accepted invitations.

The Arab League had planned a summit in Riyadh late last year but it was postponed because of differences over the return of Egypt to full membership of the League and other issues.

"The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries share a full conviction of the need to prepare the summit well. They are doing all they can... not only to convene the summit but also to get positive results from it when it meets," Mr. Sayed Fahd said.

The deputy prime minister, second only to Sultan Qaboos bin Said in the Omani hierarchy, told the newspaper it could take some time for Oman and neighbouring South Yemen to establish relations on foundations acceptable to both parties.

He said both countries thought the results of last month's talks on their disputed border were a step in the right direction but did not elaborate. Diplomats in Muscat have described progress in the talks as modest.

Mr. Sayed Fahd said that under an agreement reached at

the GCC summit in Kuwait last November, GCC nationals would be allowed to buy a single residential property in other council states provided the land area was no more than 3,000 square metres.

These properties would be for private residential use only unless individual states decided otherwise, he added.

He said none of the six GCC states — Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — had obtained special exemptions from the agreement, which was "on the way to implementation."

Some GCC countries originally had reservations about the agreement, fearing citizens of richer member states would move in and drive up property prices.

Bavarian leader's proposal for Middle East arms sales comes under fire

BONN (R) — Right-wing Bavarian leader Franz Josef Strauss came under fire Monday for proposing that West Germany should sell arms to the Middle East.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) and the official German-Israeli Friendship Society condemned Mr. Strauss' remarks, which he made in an interview in Bild newspaper Monday.

Mr. Strauss, leader of the Christian Social Union in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition, told Bild he wanted Bonn to relax its ban on West German arms exports to areas of tension.

"Tanks, aircraft, warships, guns — if we don't supply them others will," said Mr. Strauss, who leaves on an official visit to Israel Tuesday.

Israeli parliamentarians from left and right have said they will

boycott the visit because of Mr. Strauss' support for the sale of West German Leopard tanks to Saudi Arabia.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir is due in Bonn for talks with Chancellor Kohl Tuesday and is expected to reaffirm Israel's opposition to any arms sales to Arab states.

Erik Blumenfeld, president of the German-Israeli Friendship Society and a member of the European Parliament for Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, said Mr. Strauss' proposal could only harm relations with Israel.

"Trying to oblige Arab interests by doing a disservice to the Israelis does not help to reduce tension in the Middle East or serve the cause of peace," Mr. Blumenfeld said in a statement.

He said Mr. Strauss was obviously lobbying for the West German arms industry, much of which is based in Bavaria.

SPD parliamentarian Wolfgang Roth told West German Radio that Mr. Strauss' remarks were "terrible."

Mr. Strauss said West Germany should stop living in the past where Israel is concerned and join other Western nations in selling arms in the Middle East.

He said he had paved the way years ago for Israel to receive West German technological aid for its military arm and favoured them having more if they wanted it.

Reminded that the Germans have a special responsibility for Israel because of Hitler's persecution of the Jews, Mr. Strauss said: "It is time for our relationship with Israel to become normal and relaxed."



MAYOR RECEIVES CONSERVATION SHIELD: Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh (left) Monday receives the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature shield from the society's president Mr. Anis Monaster (right), for the contribution made by the Amman Municipality to increase the greenery in Jordan and to preserve the environment (Petra photo)

Iraq, Iran ready to exchange PoWs

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran and Iraq, criticised by a United Nations team for their treatment of Gulf war prisoners, say they are ready to set some of them free.

In Baghdad, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday Iraq was ready to implement an exchange of prisoners and other recommendations made by the U.N. team provided the Security Council agreed a programme binding both parties.

Iraq wants the Security Council to meet early next month.

The three-man U.N. team, which toured PoW camps in Iran and Iraq last month, said in a report published last Friday that both sides treated prisoners harshly. It recommended prisoner exchanges and adherence to humane standards.

The two sides are thought to have exchanged only a few hundred prisoners since the 52-month-old war erupted in September 1980.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein-Mousavi said Sunday

that Iran would release all crippled and sick Iraqi prisoners unilaterally. He gave no date but hoped Iraq would reciprocate.

Iran holds about 50,000 prisoners-of-war (PoWs) and Iraq some 10,000, according to diplomats in the region.

The Iraqi spokesman responded to the "so-called civilian PoW" issue by saying some 75,000 Iraqis lived freely in villages set up for them in Iraq.

He said Iraq regarded them as refugees, covered by the Geneva Convention on protection of civilians in wartime and eligible for Red Cross visits. Iraq was ready to return them to Iran or to send them to any country they chose, he added.

The Foreign Ministry has summoned ambassadors of the states currently serving on the Security Council to request a meeting on the U.N. report, the spokesman said.

"In order to put these recommendations into practical action, Iraq sees it necessary that the

Security Council meet to take a decision binding both parties to apply the team's recommendations," the spokesman said.

The three members of the U.N. panel were Professor Wolfgram Karl of Austria, Professor Torkel Opsahl of Norway and Maj.-Gen. Rafael Vale Huerfina of Venezuela.

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Security Council meet to take a decision binding both parties to apply the team's recommendations," the spokesman said.

Egypt seeks additional \$2 billion from U.S.

LONDON (R) — Egypt's Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali was reported Monday as saying that Egypt was urgently seeking an additional sum of nearly \$2 billion in aid from the United States.

In an interview with the Financial Times he said that \$865 million was needed for priority projects in construction, power generation, steel-making and agriculture to implement the current five-year plan.

Mr. Ali said an additional \$1 billion would be needed in the 1986 financial year to cope with "very big problems in foreign cur-

rency."

President Hosni Mubarak would press for greater assistance during his visit to Washington next month.

"I hope there is full understanding in the administration and Congress about the needs of Egypt, both in the economic and in the military field," Mr. Ali was quoted as saying.

The U.S. already provides Egypt with more than \$2 billion a year in civil and military aid but Mr. Ali said this was the first time Egypt had asked for an immediate injection of funds.

Falangists say Syria has important unifying role

BEIRUT (R) — The right-wing Falange Party, which marked the end of years of estrangement from Syria with top-level talks in Damascus last weekend, says Syria can play an important role in Lebanon by unifying warring factions.

Falange Party President Elie Karam was quoted by Monday's Beirut newspapers as saying after the talks in Damascus: "We are convinced that no (Lebanese) party is able to impose a military solution at the expense of any other."

It was indispensable that all parties understood the point, he said, adding: "Syria can play an important role in this."

Beirut's pro-Syrian daily As-Sa'ir likened the visit of the Falange, the dominant force among Lebanese Christians, to the Biblical story of the return of the prodigal son.

"We shall not invoke memories of the painful past to open wounds... it is sufficient for us that we should all have returned to Syria's brotherly and just patronage," it said.

A Falangist delegation led by Mr. Karam held talks with President Hafez Al-Assad, Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and other Syrian officials on security in Lebanon, political reform and Israel's withdrawal from the South.

Falangist militiamen and Syrian troops have fought major battles in Lebanon but relations improved after Syrian-backed militia forced Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, son of former Falange Party President Pierre Gemayel, to follow pro-Syrian anti-Israel policies last year.

Under pressure from Damascus, Mr. Gemayel's government last year abrogated Lebanon's May 1983 agreement with Israel that made any Israeli troop withdrawal conditional on the departure from Lebanon of Syrian troops.

Last weekend's visit to congratulate Mr. Assad on his recent reelection, was the first by a Falange Party president since Pierre Gemayel's visit in May 1978.

Israel defends tough policy in South Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Foreign Ministry Monday defended its army's tough policy against Shi'ite Muslim villagers in South Lebanon, saying it "came after a long period of restraint in the face of often extreme provocation."

Military sources said Israeli troops continued to close off several villages Monday and were carrying out "intensive actions (such as) patrols and checks" in villages.

The ministry added in a statement that United Nations peacekeeping troops were present during recent Israeli raids on Shi'ite villages which left more than a dozen villagers dead.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), told Reuters that U.N. troops were present for some of the raids because they were stationed in the attacked villages.

But, he added, there were many other Israeli actions during the past week about which the U.N. knew nothing. U.N. soldiers acted

as a deterrent when they were present, Goksel added.

Israeli soldiers destroyed 13 houses and expelled dozens of Lebanese suspected of anti-Israel attacks from the area under their control.

The policy follows a surge in commando attacks on Israeli troops after Israel last month announced its intention to withdraw from Lebanon this year.

The ministry statement, reflexed to Israeli embassies, said it was particularly disturbing that Lebanese leaders such as President Amin Gemayel praised the commando attacks.

It added that since the withdrawal of Israeli troops already started 10 days ago, it was pointless for commandos to persist in attacks "unless the real object... is the wish to score points in preparation for the expected infighting among the various Lebanese communities for control over the area being evacuated."

Israeli crackdown could strengthen South Lebanese resistance

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuters

BEIRUT — Israel's military crackdown on South Lebanese villagers is more likely to increase commando resistance than crush it, foreign diplomats and military observers in Lebanon believe.

It may also provoke Shi'ite Muslim commandos to carry the fight from occupied South Lebanon into northern Israel, one diplomat said.

Suffering mounting losses from commando raids, Israel has launched a "get tough" policy against Shi'ite villages in areas it still holds after last week's pullout from Sidon.

It has promised to leave the remaining occupied areas later this year but Israeli troops have sealed off the new frontlines to journalists and travellers and repeatedly raided Shi'ite villages behind them.

They also raided a village across the new lines, ignoring Lebanese troops who moved in after their withdrawal from Sidon, bringing calls for the Lebanese army to fight to protect villagers against further incursions.

"I would think the operations will engender much greater hatred by the Shi'ites and the big question is whether it will encourage them to carry the fight beyond the Israeli border," a diplomat said.

A foreign observer in the South said the Israeli raids were ineffective and called them a "public relations exercise" in placate Israeli opinion after recent losses from commando attacks.

"They have rounded up villagers and filled up the detention camps and they are still getting attacked, so what is the point of it all?" he said.

Red Cross officials in Beirut say Israel held 1,490 prisoners in the Ansar Detention Camp in the

South on Feb. 12, but the total since the latest raids is not known. "The Israelis are damaging their relations with people not involved in anything, and there are more attacks than ever. So the operation is not really working, is it?" the observer said.

In the biggest Israeli operation so far, hundreds of troops and local militia allies in scores of armoured vehicles entered six Shi'ite towns and villages to interrogate inhabitants, make detentions and search homes.

They killed at least three people, bulldozed at least 13 homes after allegedly finding arms and deported a number of people from Israeli-held areas.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the raids are a "preventive measure" to show

Shi'ite commandos they cannot attack Israeli troops without "heavy punishment."

"Until these attacks stop, the army will have to continue in this way without hesitation," he said. But attacks continued and a Shi'ite militia leader in Beirut said Israel's actions would only strengthen resistance.

"Israel should know that the resistance in the South feeds on Israel's violence and crimes, strengthening the resistance, not weakening it," said Akef Haydar, politburo chief of the Shi'ite Amal (hope) militia.

Commandos have attacked an Israeli position outside a southern village that troops had just raided and there were three more attacks the following day with commando's firing on Israeli positions and a roadside bomb exploded near a patrol.

A foreign diplomat also questioned the effectiveness of the

Israeli raids. "I wouldn't be surprised if people in the villages harbour commandos, but whether the Israeli raids have any military effect is more problematic," he said.

"The Israelis always have the policy of hitting back when things get too tough."

Israel's "get tough" attitude probably did not mean it would go back on the decision to leave South Lebanon, but it could change the nature of the resistance, the diplomat added.

Shi'ite resistance had so far been concentrated on trying to get the Israelis out of the country. "But if the Israelis engender a lot of hatred now, there may be people who want to carry the fight to Jerusalem," he said.

"The real question is whether this means the resistance will stop at the border when the Israelis leave, or go on. Will it continue to be a purely national resistance, or will it escalate?" he added.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 News
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children programmes
18:15 Trauma Centre
19:00 Local Programme
19:30 News Programme
19:35 News Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:00 Programmes Review
21:40 Varieties Programme
23:00 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30 German Programme for Children
18:00 Des grieses aus Lobs
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Star of the Family
21:00 Towards 2000
21:10 Tenko - Eps. 8
22:00 News in English
22:15 Hardie and McCornick

RADIO JORDAN

555 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 1500 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Cont.
11:00 Pop Session Cont.
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session Cont.
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Cont.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:15 Country Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Science Report
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show Cont.
21:00 Evening Show Cont.
22:00 Evening Show Cont.
23:00 Evening Show Cont.
23:05 Evening Show Cont.
23:57 News Headlines
14:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Classical
06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections
07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours
07:20 News Summary 07:30 News
07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World
08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Rock
08:45 World News 08:55 24 Hours
09:00 News Summary 09:30 Seven
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VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260, SW 7200, 9550, 11740,
11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning News. Informal
Presentation of Popular Music with Feature
Reports, Interviews, Announcements
and Questions. Science Digest.
Sports News at 30 minutes past the
hour. 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30
Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus
18:30 Special English News and Features
18:45 News 18:55 Newsline 19:00
Morning Show 20:00 News 20:10 Focus
20:30 Special English News and Features
21:00 Newsline America 21:30
Music USA

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition about the Jordanian
farms and animal life at the French Cul-
tural Centre (FCC)
* Indian books exhibition at the Uni-
versity of Jordan Central Library.
* An exhibition of photographs by Adib
Atwaj at Yarmouk University.

LECTURE

* Dr. Mohammad Shalheen from the
University of Jordan presents a lecture
entitled "The Orientalism of E.M. For-
ster" at the British Council, 7:30 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 666251
Y.W.M.A. 666251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and cos-
tumes over 100 years old. Also music
from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th
centuries). The Roman Theatre.
Amman. Opening hours 9.00 a.m. - 5
p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an
excellent collection of the antiquities of
Jordan. Jabbal Al-Qaf (Cinder Hill).
Opening hours 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
(Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m.
4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a col-
lection of paintings, ceramics, and scul-
ptures by contemporary Islamic artists
from most of the Muslim countries and a
collection of paintings by 19th century
orientalist artists. Mount Sinai, Jabbal
Luwilidh. Opening hours 10.00 a.m.
1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Martyr's Memorial (Military Museum):
Collection of military memorabilia dat-
ing from the Arab Revolt of 1916.
Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9
a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays, Tel.
664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to
150 year old items such as costumes,
weapons, musical instruments, etc.
Opening hours 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every
first and third Wednesday at the Holy-
day Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings
every second and fourth Wednesday at
the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings
every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,
1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday
at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabbal Amman,
Eighth Circle. Tel. 51261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabbal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman
Catholic) Jabbal Luwileidh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabbal Amman, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek
Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Red-
eemer) Jabbal Amman, 23583.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh,
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh,
775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox)
Ashrafieh, 771751.
Amman International Church (Inter-
denominational): meets at Southern
Baptist School in Shmeisli, 815534.

PRAYER TIMES

04-45 Fajr
05-03 Sunrise
11-49 Dhuhr
15-04 'Asr
17-30 Maghrib
18-52 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia in-
formation department at the Queen Alia
International Airport tel. (08) 532520,
where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Dhahran (RJ)
09:55 Dubai, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Muscat, Doha (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Riyadh (RJ)
10:35 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:45 Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
12:15 Doha (GF)
12:50 Moscow (SU)
14:40 Baghdad (KU)
16:15 Kuwait (RJ)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:00 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:45 Tripoli (RJ)
19:15 Zurich, Larnaca (GR)
20:20 Athens (GA)
20:40 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
20:50 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
01:10 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES:

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:15 Aqaba (RJ)
07:25 Tripoli (RJ)
07:30 Cairo (MS)
11:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:25 Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30 Rome (RJ)
13:00 Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
14:50 Moscow (SU)
15:40 Kuwait (KU)
17:15 Baghdad (KU)
19:30 Kuwait (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:45 Cairo (RJ)
21:10 Baghdad (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba
port:
- Golden Amman
- Baloon
- Gandara
- Podgora
- Benaguy
- Hual Roda

Amn Kawa and Soot Company, Tel.
23324 (six lines) at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell-off rates in Jls
Belgian franc 60.5/ 61.4
Dutch guilder 108.2/ 109.1
Egyptian guinea 301.3/ 305.3
French franc 40.1/ 40.4
Irish dollar 36.0/ 36.3
Italian lire (for 100) 19.6/ 19.9
Japanese yen (for 100) 158.5/ 159.8
Kuwait dinar 135.0/ 135.5
Lebanese lira 29.6/ 30.5
Omani rial 119.8/ 120.6
Saudi riyal 114.1/ 114.8
Saudi rial 116.7/ 117.2
Swedish crown 43.7/ 44
Swiss franc 145.6/ 146.8
Syrian lira 34/ 35
UAE dirham 113/ 114
U.S. dollar 447.9/ 451.2
U.S. dollar 416.5/ 419
W. German mark 122.6/ 123.6

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

A depression centred in northern Jor-
dan will continue to affect northern
the country. So, it will be cold, cloudy
and rainy. Hills areas will have snowfall.
Winds will be northwesterly fresh. In
Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and
mild with southerly fresh winds and
calm sea.

Low/high temperature in deg. C
Amman 0/ 5
Aqaba 10/ 14
Cairo 16/ 24
Jordan Valley 0/ 7
Cairo 16/ 24

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 6, Aqaba 16. Humidity re-
adings: Amman 98 per cent, Aqaba 60
per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 775111
Firstaid, fire, police 199
Blood bank 775121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 22090-3
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 36390-1
Electric power Co. 26381-2
Municipal water service 771125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre - 813813-32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn - 44281-4
Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 43441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Malhas, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shmeisli 664171-4
Shameisli Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645945
Dr Al-Sifri, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Muhsin Hospital 667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101-3
Al-Balad, J. Ashrafieh 775111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Azam 81891
Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Najjar 77050

Information 12
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Cable or telegram 17
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.
Apple (double red) 250/250
Apple (golden) 250/250
Apple (sour) 250/250
Banana (Minkamur) 280/240
Beans 230/200
Broad beans 150/120
Cabbage 70/50
Chenari 640/560
Cress (yellow) 130/100
Carrot (black) 70/50
Cauliflower 70/50
Cucumber (large) 100/80
Cucumber (small) 180/150
Eggplant (large) 170/130
Eggplant (small) 170/130
Garlic 150/100
Grapefruit 190/160
Lemon 140/110
Lettuce (per case) 270/230
Mallow 250/200
Mandarin 100/80
Marrow (large) 100/80
Marrow (small) 170/130
Onion (dry) 180/120
Onion (green) 140/100
Oranges (Abu Surra) 140/100
Oranges (Shameisli) 270/230
Parsley 70/50
Pepper (American) 580/540
Pepper (sweet) 600/540
Potatoes (local) 600/540
Radishes 20/20
Spinach 30/20
Tomatoes 170/130
Turnip 170/130

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet okays team for teaching talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided on Jordan's participation at the fourth international conference of adult teaching due to be held in Paris on March 19. A delegation headed by Ministry of Education Secretary General Abdul Latif Arabiyat will represent Jordan at the 10-day conference.

Ajlouni to attend Arab health conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Kamel Ajlouni will head Jordan's delegation to the tenth Arab health ministers conference due to start in Baghdad on Tuesday.

Man axes wife to death

AMMAN (J.T.) — A man killed his wife Sunday by hitting her head with a gardening axe. The murderer, in a state of nervous breakdown, immediately reported himself to Al Mouhajerine Police Department, according to a report in the local press. The man, identified as A.K., 35, told the police that the reasons behind murdering his wife, N.H., aged 34, were personal and had to do with a family problem, the report added.

Kent, Marlboro cigarettes to go on sale

AMMAN (J.T.) — Marlboro and Kent cigarettes will be sold in local distribution centres as of March, according to a report in the local press. The article reported that the Ministry of Supply has reached an agreement with local importers of foreign cigarettes to import Kent and Marlboro cigarettes.

Series of literary lectures starts at British Council

By Raghad Azizieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The British Council will be holding a series of three lectures by staff of the English Department at the University of Jordan. The first lecture will be presented Tuesday Feb. 26th by Dr. Mohammad Shabaneh entitled "The Orientalism of E.M. Forster", the second will be on Tuesday March 19th by Dr. M. Asfour entitled "Acting in Hamlet", and the third will be on Tuesday 16 April by Dr. I. Safady entitled "Doughty in Arabia: Defeat or Defeat?".

Dr. Shabaneh is an associate professor of English literature at the University of Jordan. He received his Ph.D. from Cambridge University in England and specialises in twentieth century English literature, literary criticism and the modern novel. He is widely recognised as an authority on E.M. Forster, George Meredith and Ezra Pound, and has published many articles on leading journals. He is publishing a book on "The Orientalism of E.M. Forster", the subject of Tuesday evening's lecture.

March 19th will be Dr. M. Asfour's lecture "Acting in Hamlet". Dr. Asfour received his Ph.D. from the University of Indiana in 1973 and has been with the University

of Jordan from that date. He is a practising poet and a volume of his works was published in Amman in 1980 by the Ministry of Culture. Dr. Asfour is an accomplished English/Arabic translator and his translation of Ashley Montague's "The Concept of the Primitive", published in 1982 in Kuwait, received the prize for the best translation the following year. He has, however, published essays on Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice", and is currently working on "Hamlet".

Dr. I. Safady will be lecturing on April 16th on "Doughty in Arabia: Defeat or Defeat?". He has graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1970 with a Ph.D. in English and has worked at the University of Jordan since 1973. He specialises in late nineteenth century English and American literature. He was awarded a Fulbright senior fellowship in 1983/84, and has lectured for the British Council in Amman and Beirut, the University of Washington and elsewhere.

Dr. Safady is also interested in Anglo-American travellers to the Middle East, and the poetry of American folk and rock songs of the 1960's and 1970's. In 1975 he published "Towards a Naked Vision" which explores concepts in English poetry.

Today's lecture will commence at 7.30 p.m.

Theatre club sets the stage for their second musical

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After last year's success of the very professionally produced musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown", the Royal Theatre Club, in cooperation with the Royal Cultural Centre, is staging another musical — this time "Oliver!". Based on Charles Dickens' famous novel, the original show with its large cast of children and adult actors, the audience profoundly enjoying the rags to riches story, the clear-cut characters who are either all good or all bad and the eminently hummable songs.

It was because of these qualities and principally because a lot of children were involved that the Royal Theatre Club, one of whose

main aims is to introduce children to the pleasures of the theatre from an early age, chose this particular musical.

"The younger generation here come to the theatre, as children anywhere else do — completely open, a 'tabula rasa' with no preconceptions and we realised that through these young people there are great possibilities for theatre in Jordan in the future," director and producer of the show, Mrs. Vanessa Batrouni, told the Jordan Times.

"Oliver!", however, is not just a show for children. With a cast of around 16 adults and 40 children between the ages of nine to 14, it is certainly a play for children to perform in but, as Mrs. Batrouni says, it is also a play very much for adults. It is also a very ambitious play and because of limitations both in finances and facilities, Mrs. Bat-



Illustrations taken from George Cruikshank's "Oliver Twist" will be used as a means of changing the scenes in the Royal Theatre Club's production of "Oliver!".



GIFTS FOR CHARITY HOME: British Ambassador to Jordan Arthur John Coles (right) Monday presents the Home of Peace with wheelchairs and other equipment for the handicapped. The

ambassador toured the charity home which cares for 90 homeless and handicapped people (Petra photo)

Jordan University holds scientific day

AMMAN (Petra) — A scientific day was held Monday at the University of Jordan Faculty of Medicine with the participation of 35 of the faculty's members of staff who presented 14 research papers on various medical subjects. The university's vice-president, Dr. Abdul Wahaf Al Borollosy, delivered a speech at the opening of the day in which he stressed the importance of such a scientific

rally and its role in displaying medical research which serves medical education and improves the standard of medical services at the national level.

Dr. Borollosy suggested that a national council for medical research be set up in which all the medical sectors take part to raise the standard of medical research as well as the standard of medical services. He announced world

recognition of the Jordanian medical magazine pointing out that the university is currently studying teaching some subjects in Arabic at the Faculty of Medicine.

Attending the scientific day were Minister of Health Kamel Ajlouni, a number of the university's deans, several public and private sector doctors and faculty students.

Musical treats continue at the RCC with superior concert by Ensemble 13

By Jean Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Goethe Institute presented the "Ensemble 13 Karlsruhe", in a chamber music concert at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on Sunday, Feb. 24. This year has so far been quite generous with presentations by many outstanding performers at the RCC. However, one wonders whether it could be possible to have a concert superior in quality to this last one.

Johann Sebastian Bach was born in 1685, 300 years ago, exactly. On this special occasion, the entire programme was dedicated to this exceptional musician. No one can deny the importance of Bach's music and its influence on the following generations of musicians. Even though his compositions are sometimes found too technical, almost mathematical, in structure, by comparison to the music of the 'romantic' period, Bach remains a model, a reference by himself.

The "Ensemble 13 Karlsruhe" members, Dietmar Wiesner (flute), Alexander Ott (oboe), Michael Sieg (Cor Anglais), Thomas Held (bassoon), Antonio Pellegrini (violin), Martin Ruppert (violin), Coraella Anuschk-Pellegrini (viola), Olaf Reimers (violin), Sigismund Schwiager (double-bass) and And-

reas Rothkopf (harpichord) are presently on a tour which took them to Egypt before Jordan and Syria.

MUSIC REVIEW

When entering the theatre, one is immediately attracted by the sight of the red harpichord on the stage, especially bought for the occasion. The nine-piece chamber music orchestra is also an uncommon treat compared to the number of musicians (1 to 5) generally appearing at the RCC concert hall. One might dream about a complete symphonic orchestra, sometime soon in Amman....

Perfect integration of style

The "Suite" No. 2 in B minor constituted the first part of the performance. This composition, one of the most famous works of Bach, includes very popular dances of the times, much appreciated by the royal courts where the composer was often invited. The "Ensemble 13" interpretation clearly showed a perfect integration of this style and a well balanced sound. The Bourree and the "Badinerie" from the "Suite", deserve a special mention. The flute in particular did a remarkable job though it would have sounded even better in a less

dry acoustic environment.

The second part introduced the "Musical Offering". More difficult to follow for the layman than the first part this series of compositions reaffirms Bach as the master of the fugue and the canon. Very rich in themes variation and instruments arrangement, it requires, nevertheless, a certain degree of concentration from the listener. The "Ensemble 13" proved their talent and artistic sensitivity through Bach's "Musical Offering", where some passages with a really slow tempo, required extremely delicate treatment. The violin of Antonio Pellegrini, almost romantic by moments, and the harpichord of Andreas Rothkopf were remarkable in the "Trio".

The "Ensemble 13" was founded when a few members of the Southwest German Radio Symphony Orchestra, decided in 1973, with the help of Manfred Reichert to establish a new chamber ensemble. Their main concern was to bring back to life forgotten but valuable works, unwanted by the "big" orchestras, record companies and radios. They opted for new ways to approach the audience and to work together as equal members of a team. They have been rewarded in many ways and are producing records under their own label (EMP) and organising the "Winter Music" festival in Germany.

Snow, fog cause hazards, accidents on roads

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Snow and heavy rain swept most of Jordan Monday causing poor visibility and hazardous conditions on the Kingdom's roads. Public Relations Director at the Public Security Department Captain Munther Sharairi told the Jordan Times that the Kingdom's roads are passable except the Irbid-Ajloun main road and the Eshtafena-Al Koura road which are covered with snow. He also said that the Jerash-Irbid road is covered with thick fog and the Wadi Al Haddadeh road in Amman is flooded. Captain Sharairi called on the public to avoid these roads and to drive cautiously to avoid road accidents.

Several road accidents took place in Amman and the outskirts due to the weather conditions and speeding on wet roads. The Al Duosour Arabic daily Monday reported the death of a person and three casualties due to two car collisions in Jabal Nazzal. The first accident occurred when a taxi, heading in the wrong direction, had a head-on collision with another taxi resulting in the death of the driver of the second car, Saleh Mustafa and Ibrahim Musleh were reported injured and the two cars were severely damaged.

Another accident took place only 100 metres away from the first when a lorry loaded with sand skidded and turned over on top of a small car resulting in injury to the lorry driver and wrecking the small car.

The road to the Queen Alia International Airport was reported to have poor visibility due to patchy fog and several minor accidents took place along the highway because of skidding and speeding in the wet conditions. The university road to Sweileh was reported as "passable" Monday night but extreme caution and careful, slow driving was recommended.

The had weather has been caused by an unprecedented deep and active depression, the most severe for five years, which, associated with a cold front, crossed Jordan causing snow fall over hilly areas and heavy rain in all parts of the Kingdom. Meteorology Department Director General Ali Ahanda said Monday.

Dr. Ahanda said that the depression moved towards the East Mediterranean from north Tunisia. The depression is centred over north Jordan moving slowly eastward, therefore rain and snow are expected to continue during the day with a further drop in temperature. The wind will be strong westerly reaching up to 70 kilometres per hour at times.

The quantity of rainfall during Sunday night and Monday morning are as follows in millimetres: Amman Civil Airport 4.6, Amman Municipality 18.0, Jabal Al Hussein 9.9, Wadi Al Seer 0.0, University of Jordan 17.0, Na'our 26.0, Sahab 5.0, Ataqur 4.0, Al Jeeze 3.0, Russeifeh 4.5, Zarqa 3.2, Zarqa Refinery 4.5, Peten 15.4, Sukhneh 4.1, Azraq 1.1, Queen Alia International Airport 8.1, Wadi Duhail 4.4.

Committee prepares for exhibition of local industrial, agricultural products

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Preliminary preparations for establishing a "Jordanian Industries and Agriculture Exhibition" on June 10 were discussed Monday at the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The festival is to be located at Marj Al Hammam International exhibition site and will display Jordan's industries and agricultural products as well as the cultural aspects of the country.

The festival aims to promote Jordanian products and industries in an attempt to acquaint Jordanian citizens, expatriates, investors and importers with the progress and quality of Jordanian industrial and agricultural products.

During Monday's meeting, chaired by Ministry of Trade and Ind-

ustry Under Secretary Ibrahim Badran, the participants decided to establish different specialised committees to follow up on matters related to the exhibition. A higher committee for the festival, presided over by Dr. Badran, included representatives from the sectors of industry and agriculture and will also be responsible for controlling and directing the other specialised technical committees.

Transport facilities

The exhibition will be open for three months and therefore the public transport corporation and the Public Security Department have agreed to organise regular bus and taxi routes to and from the exhibition site to enable a large number of visitors to reach the exhibition site easily. The exhibition will be organised

by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in cooperation with Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI), the Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC) and the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC).

JCCC Director Mohammad Bani Hani told the Jordan Times that the meeting was a preparatory meeting in which items related to the exhibition were discussed. He added that all the Jordanian industries and agricultural sectors will be invited to exhibit their products during the exhibition.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Badran, Mr. Issam Badi, the director of the ACI, Mr. Mohammad Saleh Jaber, director of the ACC, Dr. Bani Hani and representatives from the Ministry of Trade and Industry's departments.

Phosphate dust pollution in Aqaba causes environmental concern

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AOABA — Many visitors to Aqaba in the past few years could not help to notice the increasing pollution of the sea when swimming, diving or taking trips on a glass-boat. On the one hand, there is a lot of garbage in the water such as empty cans, tyres and the like and on the other, visitors might wonder whether the white phosphate layer that covers the seabed in some areas along the coast could not cause harm to marine life.

This may well be true, says Dr. Fuad Hashwa, professor and microbiologist at Jordan University, who completed a study on the pollution of the coastal region of Aqaba three years ago, financed through the Ford Foundation and the then National Planning Council (NPC) and by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company. At that time only one million tons of phosphate were exported yearly while this amount has increased to 6-7 million tons today and the spillage of phosphate during the loading process went up accordingly. The loading facilities which are used in Aqaba harbour consist of uncovered conveyor belts from which some phosphate regularly drops on the ground and into the sea.

Effects of phosphates

Various effects are caused by the phosphate dust, Dr. Hashwa explains. Apart from permanent clouds of dust in the air, it forms a white thick layer on the ground in the 1,000 square metre loading area which is hostile to any vegetation, while in the water it causes turbidity and poor visibility before settling down to cover the ground up to a depth of 15 metres below sea level. Underneath this layer of white dust, a black sediment has developed which does not support life for aquatic animals or plants, he said.

These conditions have been prevailing for many years and although the amount of phosphate exported has increased by more than 600 per cent, no improvement of the loading facilities has taken place to date, he added.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Hashwa pointed out that the phosphate deposited in the Gulf of Aqaba is thought to be

relatively harmless to the existing marine life as it is not easily soluble in the sea water. But follow-up research has shown that in longer periods of time, some dissolving is taking place and that the water is slowly getting enriched with phosphates, which constitute a major nutrient for marine plants, particularly algae.

Today, three years after the completion of the study, increased and abundant growth of algae in the coastal region near the phosphate loading berths can be noticed. Algae consume a great amount of oxygen when decomposing and diminish the amount of sunlight that can penetrate through the water. This may lead to damage or even the disappearance of corals and the marine plant and animal colonies associated with them as they both need a lot of oxygen and light.

The crystal-clear waters of the Gulf of Aqaba offer perfect conditions for rich coral reefs and they are believed to be unique in the northern hemisphere. But, as is well known, coral reefs are very sensitive to pollution and deterioration of the water quality of any kind.

Sewerage discharge

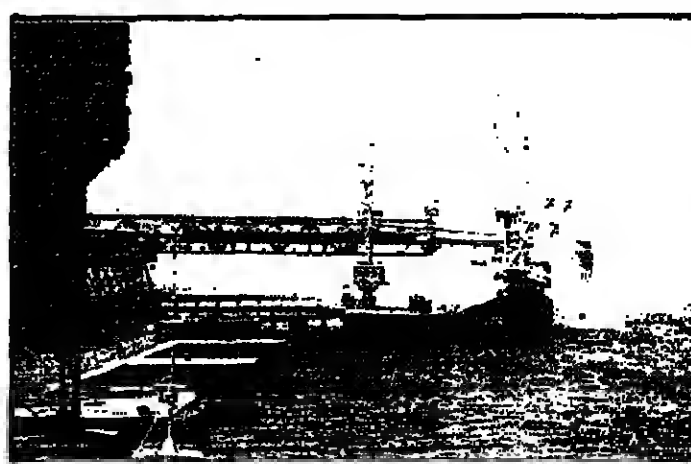
Dr. Hashwa and his colleague Dr. Adel Mahasneh also studied the effects of the discharge of sewerage into the sea and their findings were published in the Jordan Medical Journal of Nov. 1983. The rapid growth of the population of Aqaba (now about

25,000) and the increasing number of tourists has led to a significant rise in the discharge of untreated raw sewage into the sea. The report says: "The main source of faecal matter is the partially functional treatment plant located at the seaside... from which the sewerage is discharged regularly after primary treatment only."

Some hotels and residential areas also discharge smaller amounts of untreated sewerage at irregular intervals. However, the sewerage plant is located far away from the tourist hotels and their beaches are not affected. Only in the very rare cases of a south wind, a higher concentration of bacteria, which are indicators of pathogenicity, could be measured in these areas," the study says. The cleanliness water, free from pollution of any kind was found south of the Marine Research Station, where the most beautiful and rich coral reefs can also be observed.

Considering the importance of Jordan's coastal region for both the tourist trade and as a unique natural environment, Dr. Hashwa calls for improved techniques at the phosphate loading berths and to check possible pollution by other industrial waste. He also suggests monitoring the hatching areas for contamination and to take immediate action to prevent the disposal of untreated domestic wastewater into the sea.

At the moment, construction work is being carried out to extend and improve the sewerage treatment facilities, and they should be functional in the near future.



A ship being bulk-loaded with phosphates at Aqaba port. The clouds of phosphate dust, which obscure the background, have been causing concern to environmentalists who fear they may harm marine life in the Gulf (J.T. file photo)

Jordan Times

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Undapper signals

ONE OF the more intriguing members of the Israeli parliament is Mr. Abba Eban, long known outside Israel as an erudite spokesman for those in Israel who claim to represent a more humane brand of Zionism than the Begin-Sharon variety. One suspects, however, that Mr. Eban makes up for in slick rhetoric what he lacks in political and historical balance. He said the other day that the Jordan-PLO accord on a joint diplomatic strategy was an opening so narrow that it is hardly visible, and that after 37 years of its existence Israel does not need the Arabs' implicit recognition of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. It needs explicit recognition by the Arab states. One feels that Mr. Eban's suits are rather more neat and dapper than his thoughts.

What we need after 37 years of Israel's existence is the recognition by reasonable Israelis that these same 37 years have been ones of homelessness and political disenfranchisement for the Palestinians. The Arabs offer Israel only implicit recognition of 242 because the Israelis have not even offered the equivalent of this to the Palestinian people. We are probing the opportunities and atmospheres of peace with Israel, not offering an unconditional surrender to a people who insist on seeing the world only in terms of their security and their place among the community of nations.

The principle of reciprocity, as Mr. Eban knows after writing his latest book on diplomacy, is not only a sacred principle in international law, but is also an essential prerequisite for any possible Palestinian-Israeli reconciliation and peace. Mr. Eban would have had a much more compelling case had he reacted to the PLO-Jordan agreement by asking for an Israeli response of equal political magnitude, and with parallel linkages between those U.N. resolutions one accepts and does not fully accept, as a sign of the Israelis' willingness to explore new mechanisms for peace.

In the present stage of sending signals about one's intentions, the signals coming out of Israel suggest that moderation and Zionism mix rarely, and then only with great and awkward reluctance.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israeli terror escalates

THE ISRAELIS, in an attempt to regain for their army some new morale, have granted their troops in South Lebanon wide powers to kill and plunder before withdrawing from that region. The Israeli cabinet has endorsed measures that would be taken by the Israeli forces to stem the power of resistance which had caused so many losses in the ranks of the Israeli occupation forces.

Observers of events in Lebanon have drawn the world's attention to the fact that the Israeli invasion of that country was marked by acts of genocide and massacres, and the withdrawal of the Israeli troops now is characterised with the same degree of bloodshed. The Israeli invaders had carried out destruction and criminal actions when they first crossed into Lebanon, but they are paying the price now as they are withdrawing from that region.

The resistance in the South have proved to the world that the myth of the so called invincible Israeli army has been shattered. The resistance did not rest after the withdrawal of the Israeli invaders from Sidon but pursued their attacks on them to drive them out completely from Lebanese territory. But it seems that the Israelis, reeling under the heavy blows of the attacks, turned hysterical and took vengeance on innocent civilians in Lebanon's southern towns and villages.

The Israeli cabinet's decision to grant the armed forces powers to carry out repressive acts in South Lebanon presents a golden opportunity for the resistance to make more determined efforts to evict the Israelis from Lebanon for ever.

Al Dustour: No use boosting occupant forces' morale

APPALLED by the great number of casualties among its troops in southern Lebanon, the Israeli government has authorised its army to carry out repressive measures against the population in that territory before withdrawing from their regions. But the Israelis, with their atrocious actions and criminal attacks on the civilians, have exposed themselves to the world as aggressors beyond any doubt.

The Israeli cabinet, with its decision instructing its troops to take revenge on the Lebanese population for the resistance attacks, has meant to raise the morale of the army following its ignominious defeat at the hands of the resistance. Perhaps the Israeli cabinet by so doing wants to prove to all that it can still play a role in the South and can carry out its actions at will and without any fear of any one. It wants to achieve some gains and reap fruits of its withdrawal which was in fact imposed on Israel by the heroic actions of the resistance.

The brutal attacks on the Lebanese civilians could also mean that Israel was not happy at the Lebanese government's refusal to cooperate with it and to coordinate the withdrawal of the Israeli army with the re-deployment of Lebanon's armed forces in the South.

Sawt Al Shaab: Superpowers should lead peace process

THE JORDANIAN-Palestinian accord contained basic principles including the participation of the Palestinian people in efforts to determine their destiny and underlined the important role of the Soviet Union, which has always supported the rights of the Palestinians in international forums. Therefore we cannot find an explanation for the official Soviet reservations about the accord as published by the Soviet Pravda newspaper. Perhaps these reservations about the agreement stem from Soviet reluctance to give any importance to the U.S. role and Washington's policies in the Middle East.

No one can deny the importance of the American role and Washington's influence on Israel, but the Jordanian-Palestinian accord is based on principles supported by the Soviet Union, calling for U.N. participation in the peace-making process, and giving the Soviet Union and the U.S. leading roles in establishing peace in this region. The agreement was an attempt aimed at removing American hegemony and ending U.S.-Israeli obstacles in the path of peace.

The accord also stressed the importance of the Soviet role in any moves for establishing peace specially in the face of U.S.-Israeli rejections of all just solutions.

Feeding the extremism we fear

By Rami G. Khouri

THE PROCESS of political change in the Arab-Islamic worlds today is fascinating, but only sometimes heartening. Several events that have taken place recently prompt me to discuss this subject, notably the Pakistani and Kuwaiti elections, political events in Sudan, and our own experience in Jordan.

In all countries of the "Third World," and particularly in the fast-developing Arab countries, there is an across-the-board desire for more participation in political decision-making by the man and woman in the street.

We are often told that the lack of political institutions in the Arab World leads those who are inclined to political activism towards the conservative or "fundamentalist" Islamic political movements of the day. The argument goes: because Islam is the indigenous religion, and not an alien, secular ideology like Marxism, and because the state cannot easily ban Islamic activism, a conservative Islamic ideology has developed into the leading

force of political change and opposition in the Arab-Islamic World.

But the facts of recent history show some other trends. In the Jordanian by-elections of last March, a handful of candidates identified as "Islamic fundamentalists" were said to have won the majority of seats. They may have won several seats, but they did not win the majority of votes.

The total vote-count for all candidates shows that about one-third of the votes went to the rightist Islamic candidates: roughly one-third went to candidates who are loosely identified with the left, such as Baathists, socialists, Palestinian or pan-Arab nationalists and the like; and roughly one-third went to middle-of-the-road tribal or family candidates, often educated technocrats whose motivation for seeking office was not always ideological.

In other words, only about one-third of the vote went to the Islamic right, while about two-thirds went to other candidates. We seem to have a

spectrum of opinion that is rather evenly distributed among the right, centre and left — or precisely what one would expect when the people of a rational country such as Jordan, with a high rate of education and personal freedoms, and opportunities to talk politics rather freely in private are given the right to vote for their parliamentary representatives.

I would guess that the opportunity for greater political involvement through political parties, labour unions, a more professional and dynamic press, special interest groups, more free-thinking universities and other such outlets would produce a more moderate and mature political landscape, and strengthen the sorts of durable statehood and security that can only come from deep political interaction between decision-makers and decision-followers. On to Pakistan and Sudan.

In Pakistan and Sudan, we have two political situations where the government itself has tried to pre-empt the political sentiment of the people

by imposing so-called "Islamic" laws from above.

The troubling element in both Pakistan and Sudan is that the political leaderships seem to be increasingly intolerant of any opposition, going so far as to have their political opponents accused of anti-state activities, and sometimes tried in court and put to death. The jailing of opposition figures in Pakistan in the weeks before the parliamentary elections seemed to me quite an ironic measure, at a time when one was trying to open up the political process and restore to the people a measure of involvement in decision-making.

Why is it that religious, judicial and political authorities in the Arab-Islamic states have remained silent in the face of such things? Politics apart, one would like to hear the thoughts of respected scholars and religious authorities throughout the Islamic World on the rights or wrongs of leaders suddenly imposing on their people political measures that are wrapped in the cloth of Islam.

I know that genuine Islam

offers one of the most humane, compassionate and tolerant systems of ethics and public order in the world. When Islam itself becomes subjected to the rough and tumble of the political marketplace, it should become incumbent on the adherents to a true Islamic code of ethics to rise to the occasion, and reassess the essence, and goodness, of Islam. On to Kuwait.

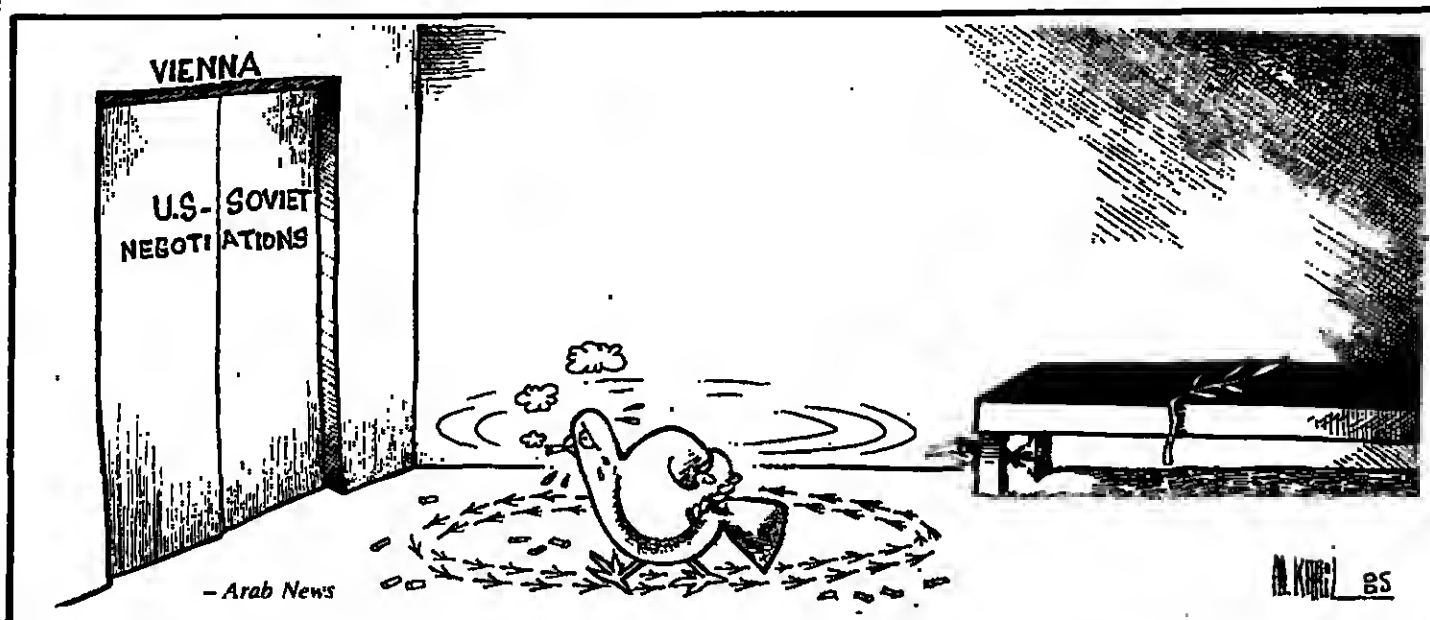
The elections in Kuwait last week were instructive for what they show about the widespread popular Arab quest for political expression. Over half the 40 incumbent parliamentarians who ran for re-election were defeated. Newly elected parliamentarians included those who seem to represent both the conservative Islamic right, and the leftist, pan-Arab nationalist line, along with the majority of centrist candidates who are part of the centrist establishment.

The Kuwaiti and Jordanian experiences seem to strengthen the argument that a widening of opportunities for political

participation in the Arab World tends to promote a more balanced ideological landscape, and undercuts the strength of conservative and fundamentalist ideologies whose ranks are swelled because of the lack of other outlets for political expression.

It seems to me that the people of Kuwait and Jordan have responded responsibly to the political opportunity that has been presented to them — to vote for their representatives in parliament and, consequently, to have a greater say in how their countries are managed.

This remains the single greatest challenge facing the Arab and Islamic worlds, who can only hope to deal with their enormous national challenges from a strong base of popular participation in decision-making. The alternatives are clear: Either we move towards more participatory and responsive political orders, or we continue as we are and thereby fuel the extremism we fear at both ends of the political spectrum.



USSR agrees to nuclear plants inspection

By Peter Humphrey
 Reuter

VIENNA — The Soviet Union announced last week an agreement opening some of its civil nuclear plants to their first ever international inspection.

But Western diplomats and U.N. officials said little impact on East-West arms talks was expected, even though the move is a boost for nuclear non-proliferation.

After signing the "safeguards" accord in a ceremony at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) here, Soviet nuclear power chief Andrei Petrosyants said it was an historic step to help strengthen controls over the spread of nuclear weapons.

"But it doesn't mean the Soviets are willing to open up in other areas affecting disarmament, it doesn't mean we'll know much more than we already know about their nuclear industry," a Western official at the U.N. agency said.

Western officials said while it was the first acceptance of international and multilateral controls by Moscow, it could not be seen as suggesting Soviet concessions on arms verification.

The verification of disarmament measures on Soviet soil, both nuclear and conventional, has been a major sticking point in East-West arms talks.

The 112-member IAEA was founded in 1957 to promote peaceful uses for atomic energy. Its "safeguards" system underpins the 1970 nuclear weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), due to be reviewed by its 120 signatories in Geneva in September. Safeguards are a means of auditing fuel accounts at civil nuclear plants to prevent the undetected diversion of nuclear fuel from the civil to the military sector. Safeguards are not applied to military plants.

IAEA members without nuclear arms who have signed the NPT must accept safeguards, but not members who acquired nuclear weapons before joining, such as the Soviet Union.

These states were encouraged to accept voluntary inspections to counter charges that safeguards discriminated against less developed countries. Britain and the United States have opened up their civilian nuclear programmes to safeguards voluntarily, and France has in part.

While Moscow has now followed, leaving China as the only "uninspected" nuclear power, Western diplomats say the Soviet-IAEA accord is of less substance.

British and U.S. officials welcome the agreement but note it is limited to old power plants and research reactors.

Moscow offered "several power plants and research reactors"

while the United States and Britain opened their entire civil programmes so that the IAEA could check the most modern plants for inspection, including fuel processing and manufacturing plants, diplomats said. Moscow's offer, which Mr. Petrosyants said could later be expanded, included no such facilities.

Moscow said the type offered was already exported, meaning the outdated light water reactors used in Eastern Europe.

"They aren't opening modern facilities. Their gesture is an easy one, with little sacrifices," commented an IAEA official.

IAEA safeguards experts would scan Moscow's proffered list and make first inspections before the NPT Review conference. "Their findings would be earth-shattering," said the official.

IAEA safeguards are seen as a technical model for verifying a future nuclear disarmament treaty. The more modern the plants inspected, the greater would be IAEA expertise on the nuclear technology of the powers in such an eventuality.

Some cynics balk at the voluntary accords with nuclear powers, saying the gestures have no effect on the overall monopoly those powers share on nuclear weapons.

"Third World" IAEA members often accuse the agency of spending too much on safeguards and

not enough on technical assistance to developing nations. The IAEA spends \$30 million a year, a third of its budget, on safeguards.

The division inspects over 500 nuclear facilities annually, affixing some 6,000 seals to stop unrecorded access. Reactors, turning uranium into plutonium through the release of nuclear energy, have been the main focus of safeguards activities.

Nuclear experts said the Soviet offer excluded the graphite moderated reactor which, like similar ones in Britain, France and the United States, could produce weapons grade plutonium.

Observers here agreed Moscow would make a great issue of its acceptance of safeguards at the Geneva NPT review in September.

Timing of the agreement was linked to the NPT review, not to next month's resumed U.S.-Soviet arms talks, announced well after it was known the Moscow-IAEA accord was in the offing.

Moscow would not now be under the same degree of pressure from either its Western nuclear rivals or the "Third World" over a failure to accept safeguards.

Moreover, the Soviet agreement isolated China as the only nuclear power not to accept safeguards at a time when China was seeking the benefits of international nuclear cooperation from advanced states in the West.

Peres is unhappy with Jordan-PLO accord, 'optimistic' on peace

By Arthur Max
 Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Shimon Peres, while rejecting suggestions that Palestine Liberation Organisation is becoming less militant, has returned from a trip to Italy and Romania saying that progress towards Middle East peace is possible.

One of Peres' objectives in Rome and Bucharest was to dampen enthusiasm for the Jordan-PLO accord reached recently on a joint negotiating strategy.

In an informal talk with reporters Thursday in Bucharest, Peres quoted Romanian Premier Nicolae Ceausescu as saying the agreement was "a turning point" and that "this time Arafat is serious ... he means business."

"I don't see the (Jordan-PLO accord) as an agreement to enable us to open immediately meaningful peace negotiations," Peres said during his visit to the Romanian capital.

In an interview with the Associated Press on his plane returning to Israel, Peres said Israel can have no dealings with the Palestine Liberation Organisation as long as it engaged in terrorism. Asked what Israel's attitude would be if the PLO abandoned armed struggle against Israel? "I am convinced that it won't," Peres replied.

In the interview, Peres also rejected the suggestion that Israel is simply marking time in Middle East diplomacy.

"I don't agree," Peres said. "But first we have to end the war in Lebanon. Then we have to work on our relations with Egypt."

Peres continues to reject the Soviet-backed proposal for an international conference to negotiate a Middle East peace.

But the 61-year-old Israeli leader told reporters Friday that nothing will work if Israel is pitted against the combined force of its enemies, and he appeared at least receptive to suggestions.

Mr. Ceausescu proposed a United Nations peace initiative, perhaps mediated by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Peres said that "as the U.N. stands today, it is almost impossible for Israel to accept."

But leaving the door slightly ajar, he said Israel might reconsider the idea of U.N. involvement if the Soviet Union and China eased their hostility towards Israel. Neither country has diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

Peres, who took office last September, has helped overturn Israel's intransigent image by presenting Israel's policies in a reasonable and thoughtful tone.

"It's a question of style. Peres never says no. He says, yes, but ...," said Yeshayahu Ben-Porat, one of Israel's leading news commentators.

The style unquestionably works. Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini, asked in Rome whether Israel's image had improved since Peres took office, said "certainly in Italy. I think in the rest of Europe, too."

Israel's phased withdrawal from Lebanon, designed to end a three-year war that was unpopular at home and damaged Israel's image abroad, represents the first step towards establishing a climate favourable for negotiations.

But Peres is limited on how far he can go on his own in the search for peace. He heads a coalition government in which an almost equal share of power is held by the right-wing Likud bloc headed by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Their differences are most apparent on the issue of the West Bank which Israel occupies since the 1967 Middle East war.

Peres, who advocates returning part of the territory in exchange for peace, has vowed to improve conditions for the 800,000 Palestinians to encourage Jordan to join the peace process.

Shamir's Likud bloc rejects the idea of a land-for-peace exchange and supports increased Jewish settlement in the territory.

If Peres pushes too hard for a renewed peace process, it could bring down the fragile coalition — something Peres does not want before Israel's economic crisis is resolved.

New Caledonia differences are irreconcilable

By Elaine Ganley
 Associated Press

PARIS — After a period of relative calm in far-off New Caledonia, a recent clash has underscored France's quandary over seemingly irreconcilable differences among residents of the Pacific territory.

A large outing last Sunday organised by French settlers in Thio, the east coast mining town that has become a symbol of the independence movement, led to a clash between police and Melanesian separatist militants.

Nine people, seven Melanesians and two gendarmes, were injured in the melee. High Commissioner Edgar Pisani had banned the outing but gendarmes allowed nearly half the 170 cars that arrived to pass through roadblocks.

The Melanesians protested and the clash ensued. Paris responded by ordering a rightist leader and four followers to leave the island.

The episode was symbolic of what some view as the birth pangs of a new nation leading an anti-

colonial struggle and what others see as subversion by a rebel minority intent on ending 135 years of French rule.

The Thio incident was the latest in a series of clashes between Melanesians, known as Kanaks, and mainly European settlers since territorial elections Nov. 18.

Twenty people have been killed and numerous others injured. Tourism and nickel mining, the island group's main industries, have been disrupted, houses and small businesses burned, and whole towns nearly emptied.

The French government has sent in 6,000 reinforcements for the 3,000-strong security force in the archipelago of 142,500 inhabitants, under a state of emergency since Jan. 12.

The militant Kanak Socialist National Liberation front (FLNKS) set up its own illegal "Provisional Government of Kanaky" in December. Its president, Jean-Marie Tjibaou, is pitted against territorial President Dick Ukewe — also Melanesian

— and his majority party, the conservative pro-French Rally for Caledonia in the Republic (RPCR) Party.

Melanesians make up 43 percent of New Caledonia's population, but are in a minority against the settlers, 37 per cent European and 20 per cent Polynesian and Asian.

Until 1956, Melanesians accounted for 50 to 58 per cent of the population but the nickel boom and a deliberate immigration policy brought 15,000 Europeans to New Caledonia between 1968 and 1971 alone.

Thio, a nickel mining town economically vital in New Caledonia, the Western world's second largest nickel producer, was all but abandoned by the settlers early in the conflict. A stronghold of FLNKS leader Eloi Machoro, killed Jan. 12 in a confrontation with gendarmes, it has become a symbol for the Melanesians.

Relative calm has prevailed since Mr. Machoro's death, and the Melanesians said the picnic

was a "provocation" by the settlers.

The FLNKS, which on Feb. 9 voted to prepare more economic destabilising actions, now vows to "mobilise in self-defence."

The incident has left Mr. Pisani, Paris' representative in New Caledonia, increasingly isolated. It casts doubt on whether Mr. Tjibaou will hold to his promise to negotiate with Mr. Pisani, whose job is to present a viable plan for the island's future by March 31.

He has proposed a referendum in July on independence in association with France by 1986. France would continue to assure New Caledonia's internal and external security with other areas to be voted on, while land appropriated by settlers would be returned to Melanesians.

Mr. Tjibaou had accepted the proposal at the beginning but later rejected it, offering his own liberal autonomy plan. He has refused to negotiate with Mr. Pisani unless his plan is considered — and talk of independence barred.

LETTERS

Rude to keep high-beams on

To the Editor:

WITH ALL my apologies to Ms. Randa Habib, I have a completely different problem. Unlike Ms. Habib, I have no car and thus no mobile radio to switch on while driving.

If I had a car, I would solve my headache the way car owners do: Put on the high-beam when the driver on the opposite side puts his. I know it works, although some times it doesn't, unless you have stronger lights.

However, I, being one of the less fortunate, or fortunate, have no car and have to walk quite a distance every evening to reach home. And if some people attack Randa's hearing sense, some attack my visual one — I mean drivers who choose, while driving on the bright streets of Amman, to fully switch on their high-beam head-light.

Believe me it is a nasty experience, so I have found the solution: I'll buy a torch, a long highly powered torch, and whenever I see a car with its high-beam on, I'll direct my torch at it, as do drivers of other cars.

However, and after a second thought, I wouldn't dare to do it. It is enough to suffer this eye strain and spare myself the fury of a Mercedes or BMW driver who might be offended by my defence strategy.

Abdullah Hassan, Amman.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

Drought displaces thousands in Western Sudan

By Philip Shehadi
Rauur

EL OBEID, Sudan — It should be harvest time in Kordofan province, but the sorghum farms are mere outlines in the desert sand littered with the dry stalks of a failed crop.

The worst drought in memory has affected one in three of the 3.4 million inhabitants of this western province. Health Minister Abdul-Salam Saleh told Reuters during a tour of inspection. Some 350,000 people have been uprooted.

By donkey, camel and foot, the displaced pick their way across arid plains towards camps that have sprung up outside the provincial capital of El Obeid, about 350 kilometres southwest of Khartoum, and other major towns.

Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri declared Kordofan and neighbouring Darfur disaster areas last summer when the annual rains did not materialise, causing a drought that has also hit Ethiopia particularly badly.

About 30,000 people are camped outside El Obeid and more than 60,000 in the towns of Dilling and Kadugli, officials say. As many as 250,000 may have left for the Nile Valley to settle near Khartoum or in the cotton-growing Al Gazeera belt.

The nomads and villagers of Kordofan live mainly from agriculture and sheep and cattle-rearing, but drought and the desert's encroachment are making both less viable each year.

"I planted 1,000 fiddans (acres, 400 hectares) of sorghum this year, and they didn't bring me a single piastre," said Osman Karadawi, a local council head in Bara, north of El Obeid. He relies for cash on relatives in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The less fortunate are living on sorghum rations given out under a U.S. Agency for International

Development (USAID) programme that began last month. USAID has allocated 250,000 tons of sorghum for Kordofan and Darfur this year.

Bara, an oasis town, is lucky. It has enough groundwater to grow vegetables that fetch good prices in El Obeid. But effects of the drought are clearly visible only a short distance away.

At the town limits, hundreds of women and children cling to a wire fence around a camp run by a Kuwaiti relief committee. Their men are away, looking for work.

"The donkeys, the goats, the camels, they all died," cried a woman from the nearby village of Jareija. "We have nothing."

Kuwaiti relief worker, Khaled. Mohammad Ahmad said the camp could not house these people, only give them medicine, rations and clothes and send them back to their villages. When this correspondent visited, the rations had almost run out.

Driving west into the Khairan through thin forests of dead acacia trees, semi-deserted villages with an evident mood of despair can be seen. It was once a fertile, clay valley area.

In Habila, an old man who stayed behind oversees the grinding of sesame paste in a crude wood masher turned by a camel. "In the history of the village we have never seen a drought like this," he said.

Gum Arabic, sesame and groundnuts are important cash crops in the Khairan. But residents say this year's output is a fraction of normal. Goats are destroying many of the gum Arabic-producing acacia trees that are still alive.

USAID is financing wells and pumps to expand groundwater resources in oasis towns, which villagers say are benefiting only a few people. Others are caught in a vicious circle.

"People are selling their livestock to buy sorghum, but as they do the price of livestock falls and the price of sorghum rises," Mr. Karadawi said. Sorghum costs three times more in the El Obeid market than it did last year.

The desert, meanwhile, is claiming good farmland. Giant sand dunes in the Khairan are slipping into the valleys where sorghum once grew.

In Hamrat El-Wiz, North Kordofan, sand has almost buried the hospital and school, officials say. The United Nations Development Programme is building a giant sandbag wall around the village to stop the desert advance.

The state hopes to lure the displaced back to their homes by giving them rations, digging wells and canals, and planting trees to halt the desert crawl, mostly with foreign aid.

"We are trying as hard as possible not to turn our people into camp people, waiting for food to be shipped to them," Health Minister Isa said. "This has failed again and again."

While new arrivals at camps will not be turned away, Kordofan Governor Fatbi Bishara told Reuters: "We will give them rations to go back to their villages whenever possible."

The problem is that the sorghum and transportation available are not enough. Relief workers say camp dwellers are resisting government efforts to ship them back.

Up to 30 drought victims a day arrive at the El Obeid camp, run by the local Red Crescent and the regional Health Ministry. A Sudanese relief worker reported hundreds of cases of measles and several thousand of diarrhoea and malaria, but nothing as bad as conditions faced by Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan.

"There is a much more manageable rate of influx into the Sudanese camps, and they arrive in better shape," he said.

Pakistan holds quick polls, with no parties

By Ihtul Hassan

Ihtul Hassan is a Pakistani journalist currently serving as an associate editor of the "Pakistan and Gulf Economist". The following article by Mr. Hassan is a press release by the Embassy of Pakistan in Amman on the occasion of the national and provincial assemblies' elections on Feb. 29 and Feb. 28 respectively.

THE GENERAL elections in Pakistan this month are expected to be very keenly contested. An unprecedented large number of candidates have filed their nomination papers. It seems that the old guard, having realised how times and the electorate have changed over the years in Pakistan, have chosen to give way to the young blood. They have certainly saved themselves from the possible defeat and taken a wise step to let the new leadership emerge in the country.

It is indeed a clever strategy for political survival — not to risk rejection at the polls by an electorate constituted overwhelmingly by the younger generation, below the age of thirty-five, and at the same time continuing to control the political parties. The elections are being held on the principle of adult franchise but on non-party basis. The leadership of the political parties which comes from the older generation belonging to the politics of the decade of the sixties and a product of the Ayub Khan era, thus, hopes to influence the new legislators from outside the assemblies so as to act as their guides and philosophers, and, perhaps, the kingmakers. Whether or not they would succeed in their plans, is difficult to predict. The legislators would mostly belong to a new generation with an outlook and orientation quite different from the leaders of yesteryear.

Meanwhile, the stage for the elections in Pakistan is all set. In all, there are 34,540,949 persons eligible to cast their votes. In the total population of the country today, the percentage of registered voters is thus 41. Of this the percentage of male voters is over 54 and that of the female voters almost 45. The number of candidates contesting the elections for the National Assembly and the four provincial assemblies is exceptionally large. It seems that since the elections are being held on the non-party basis, a large number of candidates have felt encouraged to enter the field. As aspirants of political career, they find these elections more tempting and less forbidding. They now face one another on their respective merits and are not dependent on the nationwide image and elaborate campaign of political parties.

Keen interest

The average number of candidates for a constituency comes to about 10, which is almost 50 per cent more than in any of the previous elections. The interest is, thus, bound to be keener during the campaign than ever before, of course. Limited within the local precincts of the constituencies. There would be no national platform. It would mean less fire and heat, and less bitterness and bile. But it would also mean more person-to-person contact between the candidates and the voters and, therefore, the possibility of a much larger turn-out at the polls.

For the candidates, the elections would be less costly even though these would involve a great deal more leg work and persuasion in order to net maximum number of voters. There exists hardly any ideological split between the contestants. Even the candidates, who have known party affiliations, are not soliciting votes, for whatever reasons, on the strength of the past performance of their parties. It was, thus, the first elections which would be free of any semblance of an ideological tussle.

But early in January, when the president announced that elections for the National and the

provincial assemblies would be held on Feb. 25 and 28 respectively, it was generally felt that the political parties not participating in the elections and a large number of politicians having been disqualified to take part in politics, would leave very few people to contest the elections. Soon the government came out with the announcement of general amnesty for all. This generated extraordinary political activity among the prospective candidates. Even the political parties (defunct under martial law) were allowed to hold their closed door meetings to make a decision about their participation in the non-party polls. They decided not to contest. As an afterthought, however, now they want to revise their decision and are eager to enter into negotiations with the government. But that is no more than an attempt to create confusion, make the government double-minded, and thus succeed in getting the elections stalled once again. They hope that a confusion of this kind would tilt the policies in their favour.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan government is adhering to the election schedule. The filing of the nomination papers was brisk and heavy on the last day. Candidates had to muster signed support of as many as 50 registered voters per contestant as proposers and seconders. It was a cumbersome task but one which infused wider interest in the electoral process and greater involvement of the public at large. Already over two hundred thousand registered voters have been involved in 52 constituencies to the candidature of the contestants. This has set the scene and the mood — personal contact and intimate interest.

In retrospect, one can now see the postponement of elections by President Zia-ul-Haq in 1977 and 1979 in a new light. On both the occasions, when he announced the elections, they were to be held on party basis. On both the occasions he found the confrontation between the rival political parties so bitter and menacing, and the polarisation so disturbing that he had to call off the elections. He decided not to hold the general elections for several years until now when he finds the conditions reasonably dependable to hold elections peacefully, provided he gets strict ground rules for the same. Holding the elections on non-party basis, prohibiting processions, public meetings, rallies, the use of microphone and sectarian or personal vilification are some of those rules. The rules are being adhered to, by and large.

New leadership structure

In the last seven-and-a-half years President Zia-ul-Haq has held two nationwide elections of the local bodies, thereby experimenting with the non-party elections on the basis of adult franchise at the grassroots level. He thinks, he has already produced the base for a new leadership structure in the country. A new generation has matured for national politics in the last over seven years. The older generation has been rendered less effective. Those, who were less than 18 years of age in 1977, are now in their mid-twenties. People in their mid-fifties have reached their early sixties. Most of the candidates now are newcomers; so is most of the electorate. Time and conditions are more favourable for the new generation to take charge. The plans seem to be to see the new leadership of the younger generation to enter the scene and reintroduce the democratic framework in Pakistan.

Will Togo become Africa's Atlantis?

By Yojana Sharma

LOME, Togo — Like the fabled continent of Atlantis, which is said to have sunk beneath the Atlantic west of the Straits of Gibraltar, tiny Togo is sliding into the sea.

No one knows why Atlantis disappeared, if it ever really existed. Togo's coast is crumbling because a dam was built in the wrong place.

The drive along the picturesque seaside road of Togo is one of the main tourist attractions of this tiny nation, often described as the playground of West Africa. But the tourist concentrating on the scenery will get a rude awakening as he approaches the capital city of Lome. The side of the road suddenly falls away; it has been half devoured by the sea.

Erosion along the Gulf of Guinea is reaching frightening proportions. The sea has advanced some 135 metres (440 feet) since 1980, and the coastal road has had to be rebuilt twice. Historic tourist sites are threatened, palm oil plantations have disappeared under water, and the sea threatens to engulf the wharf at which phosphate, Togo's most valuable export, is loaded.

The erosion is man-made. It is

the result of development projects which have upset the delicate balance of waves and sediment which both wore away and replenished the shore.

"One need look no further than the Akosombo Dam on the River Volta in Ghana. It is the prime cause of one of the most dramatic examples of coastal erosion in the world," says George Rossi of the University of Benin. "The erosion would not have happened without the dam."

The dam, completed in 1965, holds back almost all the sediment which was once carried down to the Gulf of Guinea by the River Volta. Deposited along the coast by the current, the sediment compensated for the erosive action of the waves. Since 1965, the amount of sediment deposited at the mouth of the river has plummeted to a mere fraction of what it used to be, and as a result the coast is now at the mercy of the sea.

This phenomenon destroyed the town of Keta in Ghana. The home of 10,000 people simply fell into the ocean as the ground beneath it was eaten away by waves. Togolese authorities first noticed the erosion some 15 years ago. The Port of Lome was built in

1968 to boost the nation's economy before the problem was understood. Now erosion threatens that economy.

The port's main pier slows and diverts the lateral currents sweeping the coast, making them too weak to transport what little sediment remains. Every time a vessel pushes out to sea, it generates waves which also attack the fragile shore.

Near Lome's phosphate enrichment factory, 15 metres of coast was eaten away in only two days. The authorities fear for the phosphate wharf at Kpeme, because its foundations are in danger. Togo provides 45 per cent of world exports of fine phosphates — 50 per cent of the country's exports. So the destruction of the wharf would cut the country's economic lifeline.

Scientists have noted that erosion is particularly violent near underwater peaks and valleys, such as at the wharf at Kpeme and the ancient town of Aného, 30 kilometres west of Lome. The destruction of the old colonial capital of Aného would be an irreparable cultural loss, not to mention the loss of the homes and livelihood of its 10,000 inhabitants.

Several villages have already been moved back from the sea, and the coastal road has been abandoned twice. The new road was built in 1984 one kilometre inland

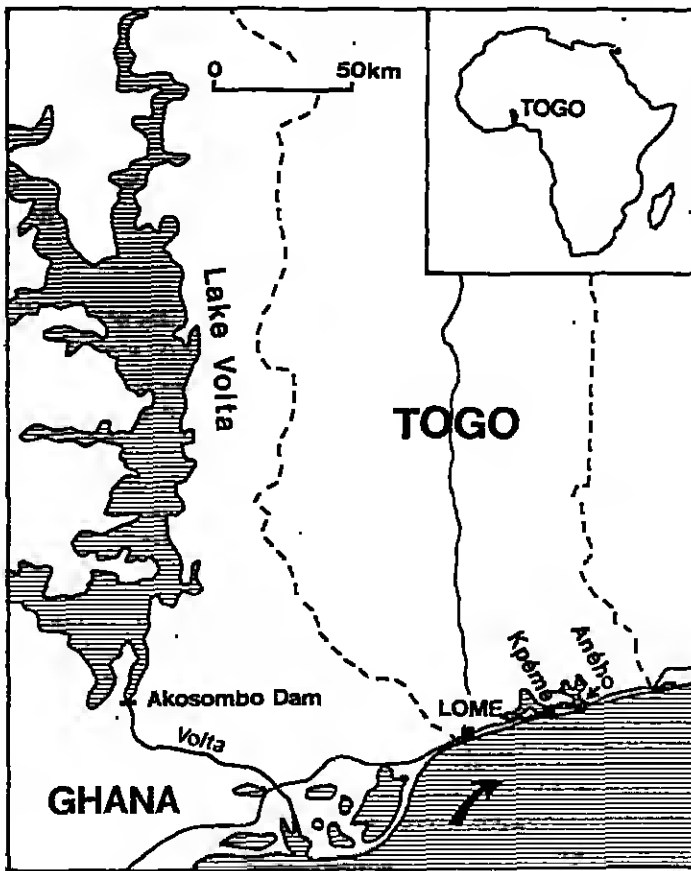
parallel to the old route. The Tropicana tourist complex has seen its beach recede 100 metres. Some 30 to 40 hectares (75-100 acres) of palm oil plantations have disappeared every year since 1970.

"The phenomenon is moving westwards", Mr. Rossi says. The Benin coast is under attack and the effects will reach as far as Lagos, Nigeria, he believes. Even the landlocked countries of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger could be affected, as Lome is the main transit port for their imports and exports.

He laments that none of these countries have shown any interest in measures to combat the erosion. "We in Lome cannot wait until other countries join in. We have to protect our coast now," he says. "If we do not do something about it within a year the phosphate wharf and factory will be in the sea."

The World Bank, United Nations Development Fund and European Community have all financed studies. But Mr. Rossi points out that before any protective breakwaters can be built perpendicular to the coast to trap sedimentation, experts will have to observe the effects on reduced scale models. The only laboratories equipped for this are in the Netherlands, France and the United States.

The problems Togo is facing



today could have been avoided by planning — if only in planning the site of the port's pier. "But the dam and the port were constructed because the two countries needed them, without thinking

what would happen in 10 years time," says Mr. Rossi.

Now the race is on to turn around a decade's destruction in the course of a year — Earth's feature.

U.S. prisons are seen as overcrowded, unsafe places to go to

By David Nagy
Rauur

WASHINGTON — American prisons, bulging from a decade of anti-crime crusading, have grown into overcrowded jungle societies where violence reigns and suicide is rising, experts say.

"Overcrowding, the strain of inadequate facilities, rising violence, these are living truths that U.S. prison officials face every day," said Charlotte Nesbitt, a former deputy warden who represents a prison administrators group.

While conditions in West European jails may be even dingier, "the level of violence in America is much greater than in Britain or in the French or West German prisons I've seen," said Sean McCormville, a professor of criminal justice at the University of Illinois.

"Among the severe problems here are: prison gangs, assault, rape and extortion" of weak inmates by tougher ones, he said.

The U.S. prisons crisis, widely portrayed as a major social problem, owes much to the success of law-and-order drives begun in the 1970s and pressed hard by President Reagan.

Mr. Reagan said in his Feb. 6 State of the Union speech that criminals now are being "put behind bars, in record numbers" thanks to tougher courts and stiffer sentences.

Statistics bear him out: About 455,000 people were serving time for serious crimes in state or federal prisons as of June 30, 1984, the latest official count available.

That is double the number locked up 10 years earlier and about 13 per cent more than these prisons were built to hold.

The biggest rates of increase were in 1981-82, Mr. Reagan's first years in office.

Crash prison-building programmes are under way but not likely to stem the tide. Officials expect some 566,000 inmates will be crammed into space designed for 447,000 by 1990.

And these figures do not count the hundreds of thousands held pending trial or serving minor sentences in local jails.

"The atmosphere that is breeding inmate violence — deaths, stabbings, riots, incidents and suicides — is produced by a variety of individual aggravations, each working as chemical agents to formulate an explosion inside the prisons," said a report by "Contact," a criminal justice research group.

Its survey found that 225 prisoners were killed by other inmates in state or federal prisons between January 1981 and June 1983, the latest period studied. Eleven guards died at the hands of convicts and inmate suicides totalled 263.

While no recent prison riot has approached the brutality of a 1980 uprising in New Mexico where 33 inmates died, disturbances and hostage-takings have become commonplace.

Five guards were stabbed during a recent brawl at Indiana reformatory. Another was killed a few months ago in a Maryland cellblock described as "the innermost circle of hell".

The typical inmate in America's hard-time prisons, according to U.S. government studies, is a young adult male of about 27, from a poor family, with little education and a history of drug or alcohol abuse. He has been in jail before and was sent up this time for a violent crime or a burglary.

Confined in a prison built about 40 years ago, he may have a cell to himself, but not likely the 60 square feet of space considered the minimum for health and safety.

He spends much of his day mingling with the other inmates. Guards usually keep well away, atop walls or in viewing posts.

This typical prisoner is as likely to be black as white. Blacks, while only 12 per cent of the U.S. population, now comprise about 48 per cent of the prison population.

While there is no official study of the subject, prison experts say conflict between white and black convict cliques is another major source of tension. Racial frictions were blamed for a prisonyard battle in Nevada in late February.

But the main irritant is the age-old problem of boredom.

"U.S. prisons have always been filled with idleness," said Alvin Bronstein, a reform advocate with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). "When you double the inmate population, that idleness escalates and so does violence."



RESTORING YOUTH: "You'd better send your post-operation photo to your relatives, otherwise they could fail to recognise you after your return", advised the Georgian surgeon-comedian Vakhtang Khutsidze to his patient, a 72-year-old American Edith Marxon, who during her visit to her Soviet friends in Tbilisi had learnt about doctor Khutsidze's fine art and had decided to grow younger again. For many years Edith Marxon was the adviser on

culture of the U.S. State Department and considerably contributed to the widening of contacts between the USA and the USSR. "I am a common American and don't make any official policy, but my friendship with people from many countries now including the Soviet doctor Vakhtang Khutsidze, makes my own big human policy", she said (Fotokhronika TASS).

Secretive Swiss grow less discreet in matters of crime

By Donald Nordberg
Rauur

ZURICH — Switzerland is the home of secrecy, but it has more leaks than some people with money would like.

Banks in this country famous for numbered accounts won support for their secrecy in a referendum last May. Swiss law even says a businessman may be jailed for giving information about deals to outsiders without the consent of all concerned.

With such restrictions, Switzerland has long been a haven for tax evasion or the concealment of dubious transactions.

But more and more foreign investigators are seeking ways to penetrate the secrecy, requesting details of anything from drug smuggling to high technology sales

to stock market manipulation. Justice Ministry officials say that, despite the referendum, the government is granting more of their pleas for legal assistance. This is shown by five recent examples:

— Someone had been placing orders with Swiss banks to buy large blocks of shares in Santa Fe International Corporation, an oil services firm, just before Kuwait's National Oil Company launched a takeover bid.

The buyers made huge profits. But they also seemed to have known in advance the bid was coming — a violation of U.S. law.

Last Wednesday, after three years and an initial rebuff from the Swiss Federal Court, the U.S. finally got its way when the Swiss government decided to cooperate in a probe of suspected insider

trading. But this happened only after the U.S. revised its request to concern a betrayal of corporate secrets, not a violation of U.S. securities law. Insider trading is not illegal in Switzerland.

— Marc Rich, a Belgian-born oil trader with a U.S. passport, set up his trading company in Switzerland to take advantage of low taxes and the Swiss preference for discretion.

For two years, the U.S. sought to find evidence of whether the rich company had evaded U.S. taxes and oil price rules.

Secrecy laws prevented Mr. Rich from giving details of his deals, while the U.S. imposed a daily fine until the firm did so. Switzerland refused to help and even forbade Mr. Rich to give the U.S. some of his own company's docu-

ments and impounded them to prevent him doing so.

Mr. Rich settled the case out of court in New York last October. But in the meantime, the American bid for legal assistance was approved and Switzerland turned the impounded documents over to the United States to aid in prosecuting Mr. Rich and an associate personally on criminal charges.

— Two officials of the Mexican State Oil Company PEMEX are alleged to have taken bribes in return for helping an American company win a contract to sell PEMEX oil equipment.

Following what they thought was safe practice, the two men paid the money into Swiss bank accounts. The Swiss government decided just the same to turn the bank records over to Mexico.

— Ellis Ag. one of many small

financial firms in Zurich catering to those with big money, is the subject of a U.S. insider trading investigation described as the biggest ever, involving trading in 50 different shares.

The Swiss government agreed to waive secrecy for Ellis clients, again on the basis of possible betrayal of company secrets. Appeals are being heard by the Swiss Federal Court.

— An American man known only as M is the subject of a U.S. probe into computer sales to the Soviet Union. The Swiss government sought and gained access last year to his account at a major bank. Documents were later passed on to the United States, a Justice Ministry spokesman said.

Most bankers say none of these examples represents a major break with the past.

"After the referendum, banking secrecy is stronger than ever," said a spokesman for Union Bank of Switzerland.

But the opportunities for profitable insider trading have multiplied since 1982, when takeover fever and a stock market boom hit the United States and brought more pressure on Switzerland to waive normal secrecy.

In 1983, banks agreed informally to open their books when insider trading violations were suspected. All requests would filter through a Swiss committee which would judge whether the suspicion seemed justified. Bank secrecy would thus, in some sense, be preserved.

Switzerland itself is planning to outlaw insider trading, which will make that informal accord redundant.

W. Germany beats Portugal in World Cup qualifier

LISBON (R) — West Germany, missing three players suffering from influenza, produced an impressive show of team spirit to maintain their unbeaten record in World Cup soccer qualifying matches when they beat Portugal 2-1 Sunday.

The West Germans were without captain striker Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, midfielder Olaf Thon and defender Karlheinz Foerster, but made up for their absence with a gritty performance.

Their hard-fought victory took them above Portugal to the top of European Group Two with six points from three matches and gives them an excellent chance of qualifying for the World Cup finals in Mexico next year.

Rummenigge's replacement Pierre Littbarski proved an able deputy by putting his team ahead after 27 minutes. A second goal was added by striker Rudi Voeller 10 minutes later to give West Germany a commanding position at the interval.

Portugal, whose team was built around eight players from Porto, fought back strongly in the second

half and Diamantino reduced the arrears after 57 minutes. But their overall performance was a disappointment to the 60,000 crowd and a bitter blow to their hopes of going to Mexico.

On a cold and windy day, Portugal — watched by Prime Minister Mario Soares — began nervously and seemed upset by the West German's close marking.

The Germans were content to absorb the Portuguese attacks and rely on quick breaks led by the pace of Rudi Voeller and it was from his left-wing cross that Littbarski shot them ahead.

Voeller himself missed two golden opportunities to increase the lead — shooting wide of an open goal each time — before he finished off another counter-attack by Hans-Peter Briegel with a crashing shot past Manuel Bento.

In between these goals, Portugal's Fernando Gomes, who was well below the form which won him European soccer's "golden boot" missed a good chance.

The halftime substitution of striker Diamantino for midfielder Andre improved Portugal's attack and Diamantino himself pulled one goal back with a thundering drive from outside the penalty area.

But they were unable to beat West Germany's goalkeeper and deputy captain Harald Seh-macher again in the closing stages in spite of a spell of concerted pressure.

West German manager Franz Beckenbauer said the win was the most important since he became manager last year. "We still have some stiff obstacles to overcome in qualifying for Mexico, but we have taken a great step forward," he said.

"Even with Rummenigge, Foerster and then I would never have believed — even in my dreams — of a victory over Portugal. The terrific morale shown by the team was probably unsurpassable."

Egypt bans live TV coverage of soccer

CAIRO (R) — A bid to help financially-strapped Egyptian soccer clubs by banning live television coverage of their matches is causing nationwide controversy after a huge turn-out caused chaos at one top fixture.

The director of Cairo's international stadium, Hassan Amin, says he may refuse to host encounters between top clubs unless something is done to prevent a repeat of last Monday's events.

The ban on live television, introduced this month, certainly achieved its goal of increasing the gate when league side National, the African Cup Winners' Cup holders, played first division rivals Arab Contractors.

With the match blacked out from the TV, a record crowd of 130,000 packed the stadium, 30,000 above its normal capacity. A further 50,000 fans were stuck outside and a huge traffic jam turned the usual 15-minute drive from Cairo to suburban Heliopolis into a two-hour nightmare.

Amin said damage inflicted in a near-riot at the 25-year-old stadium could cost 50,000 Egyptian pounds (about \$60,000) to repair. Before the ban, the top match of the day was beamed live.

Amin said it would help if the state-run television showed match recordings in the evenings after major fixtures but television officials said this would disrupt other programmes.

Talks are continuing on this, but Amin told Reuters he would ban fixtures at his stadium between top clubs unless there is an agreement with the television or he gets "official pledges in writing that it is no longer my responsibility."

Amin said fans' lives may be in danger. National are due to meet Al Masri of Port Said, who will bring a large contingent of fans, in Cairo on March 10.

The arithmetic of club finances strongly supports the ban on live coverage, which was pushed through by National and another Cairo club, Zamalek reigning African Champions.

The manager of the Egyptian Football Federation, General Mohammad Al Deeb, told Reuters that National's share of last Monday's gate was about 60,000 pounds (\$72,000).

"It is all very obvious. Had it been covered live, it would have earned them 3,000 pounds (\$3,600)," he said.

Tough fight to succeed Hamilton

By Bob Uchima
Reuter

TOKYO — The battle between four prime candidates to succeed retired American Scott Hamilton as men's titleholder should dominate the World Figure Skating Championships here next month.

Brian Orser of Canada, having recovered from an early season loss of form, is the favourite after placing second to Hamilton in the Olympic and World Championships a year ago.

But he can expect strong challenges from Alexander Fadeyev of the Soviet Union, Jozef Sabovcik of Czechoslovakia and Brian Boitano, Hamilton's successor as American champion.

The six-day meeting starts on March 4 and will crown champions in the traditional four events, the women's, pairs and ice dance being the other three, but the focus of attention will be on the men.

Orser, 23, is one of the few to have landed the difficult triple axel jump in competition, and at his best he does it perfectly. However, early this season he was struggling with that jump — until the Canadian Championships in which he won his fifth successive national title.

His sparkling form then earned him eight perfect marks of 6.0, seven for his free skating display, and his problems seem to be behind him now.

Orser, however, was beaten by Fadeyev, the 1984 European champion, when the same four skaters clashed in an international event in Tokyo last November, and the little Russian leaper is his most formidable rival here.

But Fadeyev sustained a thigh injury during the Soviet National Championships last month and had not recovered enough to defend his European title in Gothenburg two weeks ago.

He is expected to be fit for these championships, but whether he will be in top form remains to be seen.

In Fadeyev's absence, 20-year-old Czechoslovak Jozef Sabovcik seized the European title in Gothenburg and will be in the thick of the struggle here. So will Boitano, who finished above Sabovcik in third place in the Tokyo event.

The fight between the four is one that could be renewed again and again right up to the 1988 Olympics in Calgary.

Hot favourite for the women's title is East German Katarina Witt, last year's world, Olympic and European Champion who is still only 19.

Witt showed her immense skill and experience in Gothenburg when she almost fell on the first jump of her free programme before recovering to win the section and take the title for the third successive year.

She will be looking over her shoulder here at an even younger rival, 17-year-old American Tiffany Chin, who was fourth in Los Angeles Olympics before winning the U.S. title this month.

Chin withdrew from the 1984 World Championships at the last minute with a leg injury and this will be her first bid for the world title.

Two others who could succeed if Witt and Chin falter are Kira Ivanova and Anna Kondrashova of the Soviet Union, a country

who have never had a women's world champion. Ivanova was second in Gothenburg and won the bronze medal at the Sarajevo Olympics, while Kondrashova took the silver at the World Championships last year.

Claudia Leistner of West Germany, battling back from injury and third in Gothenburg, cannot be discounted after twice being second in the World Championships.

Natalia Bestemianova and Andrei Bukin of the Soviet Union, so often overshadowed by Britons Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, are the ice dance favourites now that the Britons have turned professional.

They won the European title easily in Gothenburg ahead of compatriots Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, who may provide their main opposition again.

But American charmers Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert, who missed out on an Olympic medal last year before placing third in the World Championships, could get even closer to the top this time.

Petra Born and Rainer Schomborn of West Germany, a surprising third in Gothenburg, Canadian champions Tracy Wilson and Robert McCall as well as Britons Karen Barber and Nicky Slater also have outside medal chances.

Olympic and European pairs champions Elena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev of the Soviet Union, beaten last year by Canadians Barbara Underhill and Paul Martin, should regain the title they won in 1983 at their first attempt.

Mandlikova upsets Lloyd, claims Oakland \$150,000 title

OAKLAND, California (R) — Czechoslovakia's Hana Mandlikova capped a week of upsets by beating top-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd 6-2, 6-4 Sunday to win the \$150,000 Oakland women's tennis tournament for a second consecutive year.

Sixth-seeded Mandlikova, who gained the final by beating second-seeded Wendy Turnbull of Australia and third-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, played aggressive

and virtually error-free tennis against Lloyd.

The 23-year-old Czechoslovak broke Lloyd's service at 3-2 in the first set and then continued an all-court attack, even pouncing on Lloyd's first serves, to win the next six games.

In the 10th game of the second set, Mandlikova again broke Lloyd with an aggressive ground and net attack to win 6-4.

It was the first time in four years that Mandlikova had beaten Evert

Lloyd. Mandlikova won \$28,000 and Lloyd received \$14,000.

"I grew into the tournament," Mandlikova said, "and today, I played my best. But last year was more exciting."

In last year's final, Mandlikova ended Martina Navratilova's celebrated winning streak. She was only one of two players to defeat the world champion in 1984.

Lloyd praised Mandlikova but said the loss was "like a kick in the pants."

"I counted on more errors from her, but her game fell into place beautifully and she played me smart," Lloyd said. "Every time I lose to someone, though, I'm more fired up to beat them next time."

Lloyd had previously lost one final to Navratilova and beaten her in another.

Stefanki of U.S. claims his 1st ever major title

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Unheralded Larry Stefanki won his first major title and earned his biggest-ever prize Sunday by beating fellow American David Pate 6-1, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the \$375,000 La Quinta classic tennis tournament.

All 16 seeded players, including defending champion Jimmy Connors, had been eliminated from the tournament.

The 27-year-old Stefanki, who is ranked only 143rd in the world, earned \$51,000. His biggest previous prize was \$13,000.

It was also the 22-year-old Pate's biggest payday ever. Pate, who is ranked 43rd, received \$25,500.

Stefanki, cheered on by a hometown crowd, maintained a consistent strategy throughout the two-hour, 20-minute match.

"Serve a lot of serves to his backhand and get to the net, because that's what I do best," said Stefanki, the touring professional for the club here.

Stefanki took the first two sets with relative ease but Pate won the third with a service break in the second game.

Stefanki said the support of the crowd helped him overcome fatigue in the fourth set. He broke Pate's service in the fourth game for a 3-1 lead, and then served out the match.

Stefanki said: "I felt I was playing for them. I'd look in the stands and hear them rooting for me."

El Salvador trounces Surinam

SAN SALVADOR (R) — El Salvador beat Surinam 3-0 in a World Soccer Cup Central American and Caribbean Soccer Federation (CONCACAF) qualifying match in front of a 50,000 crowd.

Winger Mauricio Alfaro put El Salvador in front after 25 minutes and Wilfredo Huezio headed home a second four minutes into the second half.

With 11 minutes to go over Hernandez rounded off proceedings with a fine drive from outside the penalty area which left the Surinamese goalkeeper with no chance.

Curren defeats Jarryd

TORONTO (R) — South African Kevin Curren ended a drought of more than two years between titles when he beat top-seeded Anders Jarryd of Sweden 7-6, 6-3 to win the \$125,000-Toronto Challenge Grand Prix tennis tournament.

In the first set both players held serve to force the tiebreaker, which Curren won 8-6. In the second set Curren, the Australian Open runner-up, used his big serve to pull away.

"The tiebreaker definitely changed the momentum of the match totally," the third-seeded Curren said.

"In the second set, he seemed like he let up a lot. He either lost all his vigour or got tentative, but he was not going for his shots," said Curren, who earned \$25,000 for the victory.

Jarryd won \$12,500. The match was filled with unforced errors and squandered opportunities on both sides.

Europeans overcome Asians

PARIS (R) — A much-depleted European team overcame a strong Asian side 4-3 in the inaugural Inter-Continental Team Judo Championship in Paris Sunday with surprise victories against Olympic and World Champions.

But the rout of the Pan-American and African teams by Europe and Asia threaten the future of the competition.

The individual weight category finals between Europe and Asia brought some top class contests.

The long-awaited clash between the reigning Soviet bantamweight World Champion Khazret Tietseri and the Japanese Olympic Champion Shuji Hosokawa resulted in a narrow win for Hosokawa — from a knock-down counter.

But Japan's Olympic featherweight champion Yoshiaki Matsuo, was surprisingly dominated by Olympic bronze medalist Marc Alexandre of France.

Light-middleweight Michel Nowak of France also drew strength from the crowd and overcame World Champion Nobutoshi Hikega.

But compatriot Christian Vachon had no such luck against gifted heavyweight Hitosi Saito, who whipped on an unusual armlock with his leg which nearly cracked Vachon's bone.

PARIS (R) — A ban imposed on Belgian former Formula One driver Jacky Ickx for stopping last year's Monaco Grand Prix in mid-race without authorisation has been upheld.

The International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) Monday announced that its appeals committee had upheld the ban but a fine of \$6,000 had been reduced to

2,000. Ickx, still a top driver at the age of 40, was race director at Monaco last year when he stopped the event after 32 of the 78 laps because of torrential rain.

FISA fined him and suspended his race director's licence indefinitely for having halted the event without consulting the FISA officials on the spot.

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Indian gold prices zoom

NEW DELHI (R) — Gold prices in India have shot to record levels since Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ordered a crackdown on "black" money with tax raids and stepped up patrols against gold smuggling, bullion dealers said Monday.

The said the crackdown pushed the unofficial price of gold up by 100 rupees (nearly \$10) to 6,400 rupees (\$534) an ounce last Friday.

The raids also brought dealing in diamonds to a virtual halt and sent tremors through the country's stock exchanges and commodity markets, dealers said.

Indians use "black" money — cash not declared to tax authorities — mainly to buy gold and jewellery.

Last week, 1,000 income tax officials and 400 policemen conducted raids on the offices and

homes of more than 200 businessmen in Bombay in a drive to unearth large caches of unaccounted money.

The tax raids coincided with stepped-up surveillance of sea routes used for smuggling gold into the country.

Last Saturday, customs officials seized gold worth \$3 million that was dumped at sea near Bombay.

Mr. Gandhi has warned that his government was determined to end India's "black" money economy. He also said he would change laws, if necessary, to end tax evasion.

Official sources said Bombay, India's commercial centre, was selected for the first crackdown because it was the heart of the illegal economy.

They said records seized during the raids yielded information on tax evasion worth millions of dol-

lars.

Diamonds illegally imported into the country were also seized during raids on several leading diamond merchants.

Bombay diamond merchants described the raids as "arbitrary and humiliating". In protest, they have refused to take delivery of imported rough diamonds.

Mr. Chaggaan Lakshmi, an independent candidate for next week's state elections in the constituency of Surat, a centre of the diamond industry, said tax authorities were harassing diamond traders by taking away diamonds legally imported.

"India's diamond exports might collapse because of the raids," he said.

India's diamond exports, mainly to the Middle East and the U.S., are valued at around \$1 billion annually.

Nicosia tightens monetary policy

NICOSIA (R) — Monetary conditions have been tightened in Cyprus in an attempt to offset the impact of a rising government budget deficit, central bank officials say.

"As is so often the case, the deficiencies in fiscal policy have to be cured by monetary policy," said an official of the central bank, whose jurisdiction effectively extends only over the southern, Greek-Cypriot part of the divided island.

Officials say the concern is that the widening budget deficit is artificially inflating demand, particularly for consumption goods, which is boosting imports and inflating the country's trade deficit.

Government forecasts show the budget deficit widening to 95 million Cypriot pounds (\$142 million) this year from a provisional 78 million pounds (\$116 million) in 1984 and 78.2 million (\$116.7 million) in 1983.

Government spending is expected to rise to 460 million pounds (\$687 million) from a provisional

414 million (\$618 million) in 1984 and 367.6 million (\$562.1 million) in 1983.

The officials said there were signs the government was conscious that it should limit borrowings abroad. "I don't think the government envisages fresh Euro-borrowing this year," said an official.

Net foreign borrowing is officially forecast to decline to nine million pounds (\$13.4 million) this year from a provisional 50.3 million (\$75.1 million) in 1984 and 25.6 million (\$38.2 million) in 1983. But the weight of government debt repayments on the economy will increase.

The tightening of monetary conditions is taking place in two stages.

From Jan. 1, the minimum ratios banks must keep in liquid assets were increased by one percentage point to 34 per cent and another one point rise is scheduled by July.

The move reflected "the need to contain growth in bank credit within the desired limits," said one

central bank official. The growth in credit last year was 14 per cent, above the central bank target of 10 to 12 per cent.

The Cyprus trade deficit widened last year to a provisional 356 million pounds (\$531 million) in 1984 from 345.2 million (\$515.2 million) in 1983, central bank figures show.

But the Cypriot economy, which depends heavily on tourism and transit trade, boosted its surplus on the invisible account to a provisional 296 million pounds (\$441.8 million) from 251 million (\$374.6 million) in 1983.

The current account was thus in deficit by 60 million pounds (\$90 million) compared with 94.2 million (\$140.6 million) in 1983.

Inflation is forecast around six to 6-1/2 per cent in 1985, against a provisional six per cent in 1984 and 5.1 per cent in 1983.

Real economic growth, forecast at four per cent for 1985, was a provisional 5.1 per cent in 1984 and 4.1 per cent in 1983.

European Community farmers close ranks to fight price cuts

BRUSSELS (R) — Groups representing eight million farmers across the European Community (EC) have set aside traditional differences and closed ranks to fight tough cost-cutting moves by the 10-nation bloc's Brussels-based executive.

The farm lobby has achieved rare unanimity in the past three weeks, masking the usual divisions between groups representing widely divergent agricultural interests.

The farmers' immediate common target is a quiet-spoken Dutchman, Mr. Frans Andriessen, a former finance minister who took over as agricultural commissioner on Jan. 7.

He quickly signalled his determination to take control of the bloc's controversial farm policy with its notorious stocks of unwanted food by proposing to slash many guaranteed prices.

"Price cuts cannot be avoided," Mr. Andriessen said bluntly.

Mr. Andriessen's plan for the toughest price cuts yet in the history of the Community's farm policy was agreed by the commission on Jan. 30.

Many farmers, long used to the artificially high minimum prices blamed for the mountains of unwanted food, were stunned by their severity.

The common agricultural policy (CAP) guarantees farmers artificially high minimum prices for their products. Last year administration and storage of the surpluses pushed the Community to the edge of bankruptcy, forcing it to raise more money.

Mr. Andriessen proposed unprecedented cuts of 3.6 per cent in the key cereals sector, which enjoyed a bumper harvest last year, and cuts of six per cent for some fruit and vegetables.

Farm budget spending in 1985-86 would be slightly higher than the current year in cash terms at an estimated 20 billion Eur-

opean Currency Units (\$15 billion) but would be lower in real terms after allowing for inflation, Mr. Andriessen said.

Copa, the umbrella grouping for farmers' unions, took more than 10 days to say the package was totally unacceptable. The delay was due to internal divisions, diplomats said.

"Some realise the party is over and are reconciled to cuts," one said. But he said others in the group disagreed strongly.

"The only way they can have unity is by going for maximum price increases. Once they realise this is not on they are in trouble," a Community diplomat told Reuters.

Diplomats say the farming groups have therefore abandoned their traditional approach to the Brussels commission as a "lost cause" and decided to direct their anger at the 10 member governments by putting pressure on the national farm ministers.

Israelis vote to abandon economic recovery accord

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's manufacturers said Sunday they were pulling out of an anti-inflation pact signed with the government and trade unions.

The manufacturers' association voted unanimously to break the wage and price accord by Thursday unless Prime Minister Shimon Peres met their demands to raise prices, an association official said.

The agreement, to last eight months, went into effect almost three weeks ago and is aimed at curbing Israel's 450 per cent annual inflation.

Under its terms, a special monitoring committee was set up to consider requests from individual industrialists for price hikes following a three-month price freeze that ended earlier this month.

Mr. Dov Lautman, deputy chairman of the association, charged that the government, which sits on the committee along with manufacturers and trade unions, had stalled deliberations.

The pact was dealt a serious blow last week when the government raised subsidised food prices by 25 per cent and prompted sharp criticism from the Histadrut trade unions federation, a main partner.

Cabinet plans to get tough on overspenders

Meanwhile, the Israeli cabinet approved legislation Sunday to

punish senior civil servants who overspend their budgets, as part of an effort to fight a soaring annual inflation, a cabinet spokesman said.

Under the proposed law, which requires parliamentary approval, ministry directors-general would face disciplinary hearings, and in extreme cases could be dismissed, if their ministries went over budget.

The cabinet rejected a similar proposal last week. Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin said this week's draft contained some minor amendments. He gave no details but said the law would help fight inflation by reducing the amount of money in circulation.

Last year, the government overspent its \$23 billion budget by \$1.8 billion. It is to present a \$23 billion budget for fiscal 1985 to parliament Tuesday.

Mr. Beilin said several ministers had opposed the bill, arguing that it would victimise officials, rather than their political bosses. It was finally approved by 11 votes to nine.

Shamir lobbies for farm export protection

On the other hand, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir

sought protection for Israeli farm exports to Europe in talks Monday with French officials.

Mr. Shamir, who arrived in Paris Sunday at the start of a European tour, met European Affairs Minister Catherine Lalumière.

Sources close to Mr. Shamir said he repeated warnings that the entry of Portugal and especially Spain to the European Community next year could damage Israel's hard-pressed economy.

The sources said he wanted to concentrate on the farm issue, and avoid wider questions of Middle East politics.

Israeli sources made it clear that the threat to Israel's farm exports posed by the entry of Portugal and Spain into the European Community was the major reason for Mr. Shamir's visit.

If Spain and Portugal join the group in January 1986 as scheduled, they would sell their farm exports to other Community countries tariff-free. At present they, like Israel, sell to the Community under low-tariff terms.

French officials said Israel, which had a \$1.5 billion trade deficit with the Community last year, was seeking a number of new concessions that would guarantee export volumes and improve its competitive position, especially against Spain whose farm exports closely resemble Israel's.

Shamir leaves for Bonn Tuesday.

Dollar shatters more records

LONDON (R) — The dollar juggernaut gathered speed Monday, shattering the mark and other currencies to new lows and pushing gold to its lowest for 5½ years as central banks took no action to try to turn the tide.

The West German mark, which a week ago traded at 3.25 to the dollar, began Monday at 3.3920 marks and retreated almost without check to be "fixed" in Frankfurt at a 13½ year low of 3.4375.

It then fell even further to almost 3.45 marks, a decline of some six pence from its closing Frankfurt level of Friday.

The dollar set new record against sterling, the French franc, the Italian lira and many other currencies so often and so fast that its level on the foreign exchange markets seemed to bear little relation to comparative purchasing power.

"The market is too large for the central banks. They cannot do anything to change the dollar's rate," said one chief dealer at a major Zurich bank.

There was no sign of intervention from the German Bundesbank or any other central bank, nor any indication that the markets had heeded a dire warning by West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg. He declared that the dollar rise was distorting the terms of trade and "increasingly becoming a major threat for the U.S. itself."

Mr. Stoltenberg added: "Even the strongest economy in the world cannot in the long run live

with dramatically rising trade and current account deficits without severe damage."

"The goal must be to lower interest rates in the U.S. by reducing American budget deficits — not by raising interest rates in West Germany," he told a Frankfurt trade fair.

But traders were more impressed by the contrasting view of President Reagan, who said last Thursday that the dollar's strength was because America's trade partners had not caught up with the U.S. recovery.

Mr. Reagan also rejected "toying" with the dollar, thus dousing official European hopes that the U.S. might join other central banks in meaningful joint intervention to pull the dollar down, under a Jan. 17 agreement in Washington by the Group of Five.

Even though the Federal Reserve has intervened several times in recent weeks, the markets Monday took their cue from Mr. Reagan and pushed sterling, which opened here at \$1.0760,

down as far as \$1.06.

The Swiss and French francs, which a week ago traded at 2.77 and 9.98 to the dollar, retreated without resistance to 2.9070 and 10.5475 respectively and looked set to slide further.

Gold, which has been little affected by the dollar's strength over the past three weeks, joined in the general retreat, apparently due to a rush of sell orders from North America triggered by chart points. Opening at \$295.85 an ounce, it was down to \$290 at the London morning fix, its lowest since late 1979.

From there it dropped rapidly, reaching \$282.75 in an increasingly hectic market, before returning to \$285.

One dealer on the Frankfurt currency exchange said: "Hectic is the wrong word to describe trading this morning. It was panic."

Another said 95 per cent of foreign-exchange orders were purely speculative in the interbank market, with only minimal corporate demand.

Arab Bank boosts assets

AMMAN (R) — The total assets of Arab Bank Limited group rose by \$262 million to \$10.63 billion last year, the group's annual report said. Deposits rose by \$236 million to \$10.1 billion and loans and bills discounted from \$2.17 billion to \$2.30 billion, but net profit before appropriation was down \$4 million to \$65 million, the report made available Sunday said.

Total assets of the bank in Jordan increased 10.7 per cent to 3.1 billion dinars (\$7.4 billion) and net profit after providing for doubtful debts and emergencies rose 10.4 per cent to 24.5 million dinars (\$58.9 million). Predicting even better results in 1985, the report said the bank's board proposed a dividend of 3.5 dinars (\$8.4) a share, or 35 per cent of the share face value, the same as in 1983.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices ended lower after a dull session as sterling again reached record lows against the dollar, dealers said. However, selected issues edged above their lows on cheap buying. The FTSE 100 share index at 1530 GMT was down 7.9 at 1261.0. ICI declined 5p to 877 and BTR eased 7p to 630 while Imperial Group was down 12p at 196 after 193 and Thorn EMI was 5p lower at 434 after 429.

Government bonds showed net losses of up to 1½ point with some institutional demand stemming the decline. North Americans were lower.

Vickers eased 8p to 235 and Micalpine shed 18p to 236 both after annual results, while Marshall Seeboome rose 15p to 425, continuing Friday's advance following the agreed bid from Citicorp International, dealers said.

Natwest shaded 3p to 649 among banks and life insurers returned to around Friday's levels after an initial mark-up. Sun Life was unchanged at 734 after 744. Composites remained cautious ahead of the dividend season with General Accident down 5p at 508.

Oils were mixed with Shell up 10p at 785 and Lasso 8p easier at 360. Gold shares fell sharply with the bullion price.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.0625/35	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3970/4000	Canadian dollars
	3.4370/80	West German marks
	3.8960/85	Dutch guilders
	2.8940/60	Swiss francs
	69.15/20	Belgian francs
	10.5025/125	French francs
	21.4121/44	Italian lire
	262.80/95	Japanese yen
	9.5975/6125	Swedish crowns
	9.7700/800	Norwegian crowns
	12.3175/275	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	287.50/288.25	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 26, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early day is good for putting in motion new methods or continuing with practical activities that have been started, but later you may find one who isn't willing to go along with your plans.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You are all fired up to get some new plan in motion, so do just that, but later steer clear of greedy individuals.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A secret company meeting can bring a fine new way of operating that can bring greater success in the morning.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A wise partner can give you information that will help to make your personal life more as you want it to be.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Efficiently handling your work will make a fine impression on a higher-up who will then give you support you need.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are highly inspired in the morning, especially where civic work and improving your image are concerned.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If you discuss practical affairs with a family tie you soon know what needs to be done to improve your environment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Early communicate with a partner so that you gain the added benefits you desire. Treat your mate with more kindness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A person in business will approve of your work and then give you a boost with an associate who can do you a favor.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you involve your kin in the work you are doing, it will be easier and can bring you more benefits.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get busy perfecting your talents so that you can have greater profits in the future. Have fun during spare hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Friends and acquaintances can be of assistance to you in some family affairs so ask for their ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Early delve into all those tasks ahead of you and they will soon be behind you, even if you have to confer with an expert first.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very brilliant during adolescence and can express himself, or herself far better than most. Upon reaching adulthood your progeny will want to make a big fortune, but early teach to be honest and ethical for best results during the lifetime.

THE Daily Crossword

by May Mannix

ACROSS

- Genes man
- Casino or
- Rise
- Mythomania
- Mother of
- Caster
- Cam's river
- Forestry time
- Son of Jacob
- Close together
- City on the Oka
- Direction letters
- Staggered
- Dogma
- Misplay
- Versy Fr.
- Pull
- Alas: Lat.
- Gr. letter
- Menotti character
- Strict
- Trunk creature
- Novel
- Tax lane
- gratias
- Civil wrong
- Kremer abbr.
- of Wine and
- Roses
- Fr. landscape
- Dull's Trevino
- Relating to
- dixit
- Asian notables
- Seed coat
- Macaw
- Exhort
- Carpo character
- Enlighten
- First-rate
- Old Norse chieftain
- Off one's
- roster
- Word for a
- heraldry term
- Nymph chaser
- Southwest wind
- Ohio River to
- German
- 33 Poetic
- preposition
- A US president
- Hadro
- Goose genus
- Primitive
- weapon
- Adjuvant: suff.
- Sea bird
- Terminus
- Diplomatic
- "3, say can"
- Colonial new a-
- caster: var.
- No-right pact
- Marble
- Lazar
- Ec. units
- Long-legged
- rodent
- Give out
- Award for TV
- Cupid
- Wave: Sp.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED:
 1. GENESE MAN
 2. CASINO OR
 3. RISE
 4. MYTHOMANIA
 5. MOTHER OF
 6. CASTER
 7. CAM'S RIVER
 8. FORESTRY TIME
 9. SON OF JACOB
 10. CLOSE TOGETHER
 11. CITY ON THE OKA
 12. DIRECTION LETTERS
 13. STAGGERED
 14. DOGMA
 15. MISPLAY
 16. VERSY FR.
 17. PULL
 18. ALAS: LAT.
 19. GR. LETTER
 20. MENOTTI CHARACTER
 21. STRICT
 22. TRUNK CREATURE
 23. NOVEL
 24. TAX LANE
 25. — GRATIAS
 26. CIVIL WRONG
 27. KREMER ABBR.
 28. — OF WINE AND
 29. ROSES
 30. FR. LANDSCAPE
 31. DULL'S TREVINO
 32. RELATING TO
 33. — DIXIT
 34. ASIAN NOTABLES
 35. SEED COAT
 36. MACAW
 37. EXHORT
 38. CARPO CHARACTER
 39. ENLIGHTEN
 40. FIRST-CLASS
 41. OLD NORSE CHIEFTAIN
 42. OFF ONE'S
 43. ROSTER
 44. WORD FOR A
 45. HERALDRY TERM
 46. NYMPH CHASER
 47. SOUTHWEST WIND
 48. OHIO RIVER TO
 49. GERMAN
 50. 33 POETIC
 51. PREPOSITION
 52. A US PRESIDENT
 53. HADRO
 54. GOOSE GENUS
 55. PRIMITIVE
 56. WEAPON
 57. ADJUVANT: SUFF.
 58. SEA BIRD
 59. TERMINUS
 60. DIPLOMATIC
 61. "3, SAY CAN"
 62. COLONIAL NEW A-
 63. CASTER: VAR.
 64. NO-RIGHT PACT
 65. MARBLE
 66. LAZAR
 67. EC. UNITS
 68. LONG-LEGGED
 69. RODENT
 70. GIVE OUT
 71. AWARD FOR TV
 72. CUPID
 73. WAVE: SP.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

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"Even if you had your jaws wired shut, you'd figure out a way to chew with your ears!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MUPLE

HARBO

YUBOED

RUSSED

WHAT THAT DUDE BECAME AFTER MARRIAGE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: IGLOO CHAMP BALLET HYBRID
 Answer: What New Year's Eve might be for some people — AN "ALCOHOLIC"

Peanuts

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, LINUS?
 NOTHING.
 NOTHING? IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE BUILDING A ROCK WALL.
 WHAT I MEANT WAS NOTHING IMPORTANT.
 DO YOU MIND IF I WATCH?
 FASCINATING... SOMEBODY USELESS WATCHING SOMEBODY DOING SOMETHING UNIMPORTANT...

Mutt 'n' Jeff

IT'S BEEN REPORTED THAT WE HAVE A CERTAIN KINSHIP WITH ALL LIFE — PEOPLE ACTUALLY TALK TO PLANTS TO MAKE THEM GROW! MUTT HAS BEEN CONVINCED BY A PROFESSOR THAT ANTS CAN BE SPOKEN TO AND REASONED WITH TO LEAVE HIS ABODE —
 AW, COME ON FELLERS, PLEASE LEAVE MY HOUSE! REALLY THIS IS NO PLACE FOR INTELLIGENT ANTS LIKE YOU!
 HEY!
 LET'S TAKE A RIDE IN THE WAGON —

Andy Capp

WHERE'S HE GONE TO NOW?
 THE WAY SHE WORRIES ABOUT HIM, EH, RUBE?
 NOT REALLY, JACK. SHE'S NOT SO MUCH INTERESTED IN FINDING HIM AS FINDING WHAT HE'S FOUND

Palme attacks Reagan speech on Nicaragua

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme has condemned U.S. support for anti-government rebels in Nicaragua and drawn a parallel between Washington's pressure on Managua and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Speaking to a Social Democratic Party youth group Sunday night, he sharply attacked a speech by President Reagan last week in which he called for the removal of the Nicaraguan government and described the rebels as "our brothers".

"The kindest thing one can say about Reagan is that he presumably is not informed about what is really happening," Mr. Palme said.

"The so-called crusade against Communism in Nicaragua is nothing other than an expedition of plunder against poor peasants who own their own land and brutal rapes of young girls who are ac-

tually children."

Mr. Palme said it was in the interest of small countries such as Sweden to protest against violations of international law "regardless of whether they take place in Afghanistan or Central America".

Mr. Palme said he had heard first-hand accounts of the murder and rape of children by the Contras during a visit to Nicaragua last year, the first by a Western head of government since 1979.

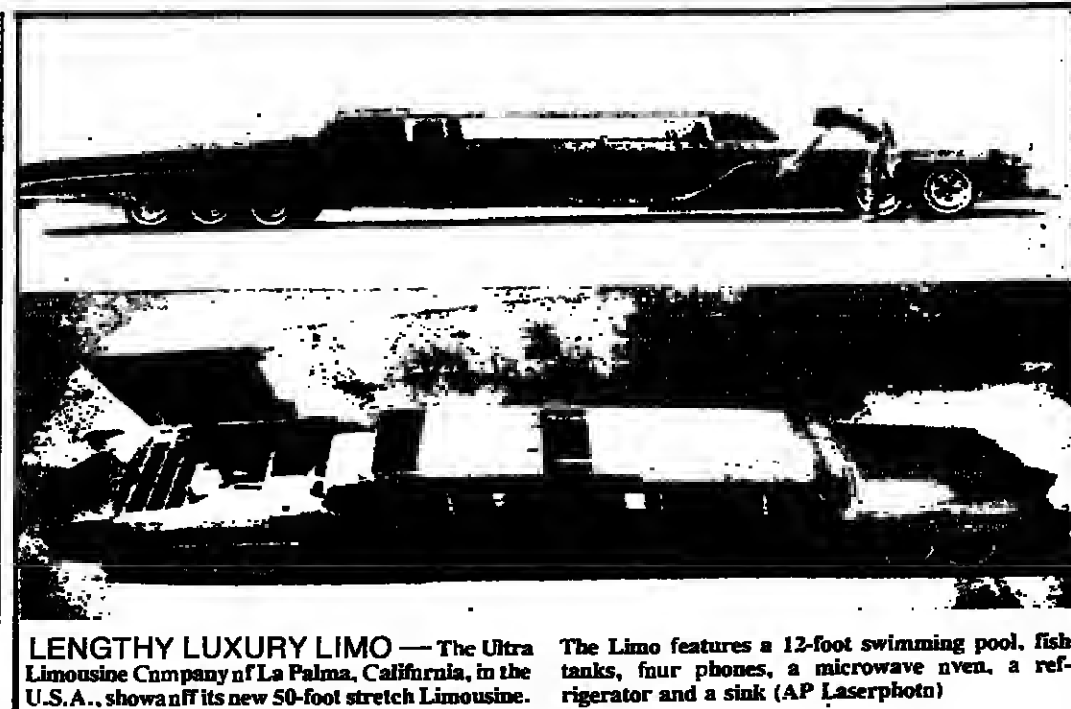
Newspapers said Mr. Palme's speech was one of his most outspoken attacks on Washington for many years. In 1968, when he was

education minister, Mr. Palme joined North Vietnam's ambassador to Moscow in a protest march against U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Washington responded by recalling its ambassador.

Mr. Reagan's speech last Thursday advocated the removal of Nicaragua's Sandinist government "in the sense of its present structure, which is a Communist totalitarian state".

Mr. Palme said democracy in Nicaragua had serious failings but described the recent election with its 67 per cent turnout as a significant step towards democracy.

He expressed hopes that the democratic process would continue, adding: "Support for armed aggression, massive military manoeuvres in the region and superpower threats can never further this process, only make it more difficult."



LENGTHY LUXURY LIMO — The Ultra Limousine Company of La Palma, California, in the U.S.A., shows off its new 50-foot stretch limousine. The Limo features a 12-foot swimming pool, fish tanks, four phones, a microwave oven, a refrigerator and a sink (AP Laserphoto)

Filipino bishop released, military says

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — A Roman Catholic Bishop and eight others kidnapped by suspected Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines have been released, military sources said Monday.

They said a regional military commander had reported that Bishop Federico Escaler and his group, including two nuns, were making their way on foot to Zamboanga, 75 kilometres north of Zamboanga, from a rebel hideout in the mountains.

Escaler and his party were abducted on Friday by an armed band believed to be a breakaway faction of the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Two women were released the same day and raised the alarm.

Military sources said Brigade Commander Col. Ernesto Madrazo had reported from Zamboanga that the 63-year-old bishop and the others had been held in a mountain stronghold about 12

kilometres away.

He said they were being escorted to safety by a local priest, Father Carlos Rivas, who negotiated their release.

Military sources in Zamboanga said Southern Military Commander Lt-Gen. Delfin Castro had ordered two helicopters sent to Zamboanga to bring the group back to Zamboanga and would go there himself to ensure they had been freed.

The military had surrounded the hideout to prevent the rebels fleeing into even more rugged terrain.

Officials were still baffled about the motive for the abduction and it was still not known whether the kidnappers had made any ransom demands.

Meanwhile a military official said Monday that at least 33 Communist guerrillas were killed when government security forces attacked a guerrilla camp in the

southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

Regional Commander Brigadier-General Madrin Munoz said the soldiers surprised members of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) Sunday in their camp in the mountains of Marhatag in Surigao Del Sur.

There were no casualties on the government side, he said.

"We are optimistic the number of fatalities could be higher because we saw traces of blood along the path when the rebels retreated," Gen. Munoz told reporters.

He said military agents discovered the camp which had served as training ground for the guerrillas and staging point for attacks against government installations in the area.

Assorted firearms and ammunition, medicines, typewriters and printing equipment were also discovered, Gen. Munoz said.

Manila orders arrest of political leader

CEBU, Philippines — A central Philippines court has ordered the arrest of opposition leader Aquilino Pimentel on his return from overseas this week, court officials said Monday.

They said government lawyers had filed rebellion charges against Mr. Pimentel shortly before he left six weeks ago on a tour of the United States, Canada and Europe.

The sources said he was expected to return on Thursday.

Mr. Pimentel, 45, long-time foe of President Ferdinand Marcos, has been accused of giving 100 pesos (\$5) to an anti-government guerrilla two years ago.

He had been in prison or under house arrest for more than a year until his release to contest parliamentary elections last May. He won his seat but the result is being challenged.

He is chairman of the Philippine

Democratic Party (PDP) and is considered one of several potential challengers for the presidential election in 1987.

Cebu Judge Leonardo Canares said an arrest warrant had been sent to Cagayan De Oro in the southern Philippines, Mr. Pimentel's hometown. He set a bail of 50,000 pesos (\$2,500).

Meanwhile the judge in the Benigno Aquino murder trial Monday ordered the family of the man named by the military as the opposition leader's killer to show up in court or face contempt charges.

Judge Manuel Pamaran ordered the family of Rolando Galman to appear Tuesday to explain their failure to appear Monday.

Judge Pamaran also agreed to a request by 26 people implicated in the killing to waive their right to appear daily.

The request came from military chief Gen. Fabian Ver and 25 others charged in connection with the 1983 Manila Airport murder of Sen. Aquino, a former senator.

Mr. Galman, said by the military to have killed Sen. Aquino, was shot dead by guards on the tarmac next to Sen. Aquino.

Lupino Lazaro, the Galman family lawyer, told Reuters that family members would not testify until 23 of the accused, all soldiers now in military custody, were lodged in a jail.

The family were among key witnesses, including four of the five members of an inquiry panel who implicated the 26 men, who failed to appear on court Monday.

Sen. Aquino, a chief rival of President Ferdinand Marcos, was shot dead on return from voluntary exile in the United States.

British miners return to work in record numbers

LONDON (R) — British Miners returned to work in record numbers Monday following the collapse last week of yet another initiative to end the 50-week-old coal strike.

The state-run National Coal Board, which is insisting on the right to close uneconomic pits, said that more than 2,900 miners went back to work for the first time on the morning shift.

This topped the record for a whole day of 2,338 miners who returned on Nov. 19 after the board offered strike breakers Christmas bonuses.

The Conservative government and the board have ruled out further talks and urged strikers to vote with their feet.

In Yorkshire, Britain's biggest coalfield, where the strike began, more than 1,000 men returned to

work Monday, higher than the previous best for a week.

There was a record drift-back of 538 men in South Wales but more than 95 per cent of miners there remained on strike.

The board, which gets an annual government subsidy of more than £1 billion, predicts that more than half of Britain's miners will be working within the next few days.

With all hope of peace talks now abandoned, both the board and the government have urged miners to give up their strike against pit closures.

Energy Minister Peter Walker said Sunday that the miners' attempts to bring British industry to a standstill had "totally failed" and that coal stocks remained high.

Jack Taylor, president of the miners in Yorkshire where the strike began, admitted that the

Union could be forced to tell its members to return to work without a settlement.

"You can grind me so far. At the end of the road, everyone will have to go back because the hardship is tremendous in the mining areas," he said in a television interview.

In London Sunday, demonstrators fought running battles with police and 101 arrests were made during a march by thousands of miners.

Mounted police were called in to break up crowds after a series of clashes near Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Downing Street residence.

But police said most of those arrested were "drunken hooligans" who had nothing to do with the miners. They estimated 13,000 joined the march.

Norwegian aide denies spying charges

OSLO (R) — Arne Treholt, 42, a former Norwegian junior government minister and senior diplomat, denied charges of passing top secret NATO defence information to the Soviet Union at the opening of his trial Monday.

In the list of charges read out in court, Mr. Treholt was accused of spying on meetings between Norwegian government leaders and senior politicians from the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, West Germany, Finland, France and Britain.

Western leaders whose meetings with Norwegians were allegedly spied on were named in the list of charges as former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, ex-President Urho Kekkonen of Finland, Lord Carrington, former British Foreign Secretary (Minister) and now NATO secretary-general, and Helmut Schmidt, former chancellor of West Germany.

Mr. Treholt is accused of spying over a nine-year period from 1974 to 1983 when he worked as a diplomat in the Norwegian Trade Ministry, as a junior minister in a department set up to examine the law of the sea, and as a counsellor at Norway's United Nations mission in New York.

Some of the most serious charges made against Mr. Treholt were for the year from 1982 to 1983 which he spent as a student at the Norwegian Defence College.

Since Norway is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), Norwegian students at the college were given top-level security briefings by senior military officials.

The charges allege Mr. Treholt took part in a NATO "war game" at the college during which details of NATO defence strategy in case of a Soviet attack were discussed, and details of NATO's nuclear plans were revealed.

Mr. Treholt said in court Monday: "I have never under any circumstances divulged information which threatened national security or military secrecy. I can therefore not admit guilt to any of the eight points made in the charges."

News photographers, allowed inside the courtroom, met Mr. Treholt as he entered the court room. He told his lawyer: "This is a circus."

He was arrested at Oslo Airport as he prepared to board a flight for Vienna. According to the charges, Mr. Treholt had 66 secret documents with him.

The charges also allege that Mr. Treholt passed on a large part of Norway's defence plans and details of NATO strategy to defend Norway against the Soviet Union at times of crisis.

Second Italian Siamese twin dies

CATANIA, Sicily (R) — An infant Siamese twin who survived his brother after an operation to separate them has died, hospital officials have said. The twins, born on Thursday, were joined at the chest, shared some internal organs and had only three legs between them. Surgeons separated them, knowing that the weaker twin, Adriano, would die during the operation, and giving his brother Claudio only a 10 per cent chance of survival. Claudio died of what doctors called the traumatic stress of the operation.

'Indians to exceed Chinese by 2050'

NEW DELHI (R) — India's population will exceed that of China by 2050 if its birthrate does not fall, a conference on law and medicine was told. The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted K.K. Venugopal, an Indian supreme court lawyer, as saying India's population of 740 million will reach 1.513 billion by that date. But China's population, now just over a billion, will reach 1.450 million at its present growth rate, he said. He said India's annual birthrate is 34 per 1,000. Venugopal said such an increase would wipe out India's economic achievements and would mean a rise in poverty and illiteracy. He called on the government to work out a comprehensive system of incentives similar to those in China to encourage birth control, where a single child gets benefits in education, jobs, housing and food.

2,089 killed in 1984 fires in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Fires killed a postwar record 2,089 people, including 750 in fire-related suicides, in 1984, up 14.3 per cent from a year earlier, a government report has said. The report, released by the Home Affairs Ministry, said the number of fires rose by 6.7 per cent from 1983 to 63,752 in 1984. It said one fire broke out every eight minutes, and every day six people were killed in fires and 390 million yen (\$1.5 million) worth of property was damaged. Rural outdoor bonfires built for winter warmth and then left unattended were the leading cause of fires in 1984, accounting for 12.4 per cent of total fires, followed by tobacco at 11.7 per cent and arson at 11.6 per cent, the report said. Officials said some people committing suicide did so by lighting themselves on fire. Until 1982, tobacco had been the leading cause of fires for 24 years, but arson headed the list for the first time in 1983.

Whales coaxed to freedom by classical music

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet sailors coaxed 1,000 ice-bound white whales to freedom by playing them classical music from an icebreaker in the Bering Sea, a Moscow newspaper has said. The whales were freed after spending more than seven weeks trapped by thick ice in Senyavin Sound near the Bering Strait, which separates the Soviet Union from Alaska. The newspaper Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya, in a report from the Far Eastern city of Magadan, said the whales showed characteristic timidity by refusing to follow the icebreaker after it cut a 20-kilometre route through the ice to them. "Then somebody remembered that dolphins, the cousins of whales, react very well to music," the newspaper said. "Several melodies were tried out. The taste of the Arctic whales ran to classical music."

Nobility guide to exclude AIDS victims

LONDON (R) — The publishers of Burke's Peerage, the prestigious directory of the British nobility, are to exclude sufferers of AIDS and their close relatives from its new list of eligible marriage partners. "We are worried that AIDS may not be a simple infection, even if conveyed in unusual ways, but an indication of a genetic defect," Publishing Director Harold Brooks-Baker told reporters. Brooks-Baker said the directory's "Blood and Gold" Club, a marriage guide based on noble birth or wealth, would exclude survivors of AIDS or those closely related to them. "It could be that some people, because of their genetic make-up, are more likely to get it than others, as is the case with rheumatic disease."

Chernenko's appearance quashes rumours of being close to death

MOSCOW (R) — A fleeting television appearance by President Konstantin Chernenko, 73, has quashed rumours that he is close to death but shown the Soviet people just how frail their leader is, Western diplomats said Monday.

At the same time the Kremlin has signalled to the outside world that politburo member Mikhail Gorbachev, 53, is the man in charge in Mr. Chernenko's absence, they said.

State television Sunday showed a 50-second film of a visibly ill Chernenko voting in a regional election. He had not been seen in public since Dec. 27.

Instead of following custom and inviting correspondents to watch Mr. Chernenko vote, the Foreign Ministry summoned them to a polling station to watch Mr. Gorbachev cast his vote.

Every national newspaper Monday carried an apparently heavily retouched front-page picture of Mr. Chernenko in what was said to be the voting room in

his Moscow electoral district.

"They've shown Chernenko as he is," one European Kremlin analyst said. "People can see to what extent he is still their leader. He's there, he's just able to stand, he can speak, it puts down the rumours that he's paralysed."

Reports had been circulating that Mr. Chernenko had suffered a stroke or heart attack. His two elderly predecessors died in office in the past 16 months.

Since he took office in February last year, Mr. Chernenko has been suffering from a respiratory ailment, diagnosed by Western experts as emphysema.

The public were first told on Friday that Mr. Chernenko was in bad health, when he failed to appear to deliver a speech. Officials had privately talked of his illness for weeks.

A senior analyst at a Western embassy said the film of Mr. Chernenko looked posed and there was no way of knowing if it had indeed been shot Sunday in a polling station.

Analysts said the effort to portray Mr. Chernenko as active even in declining health and old age was a symptom of the lack of a mechanism for the smooth transfer of power in the Kremlin.

Of the country's previous leaders, Vladimir Lenin, Josef Stalin, Leonid Brezhnev and Yuri Andropov died in office. The exception, Nikita Khrushchev, was ousted by colleagues in 1964.

The analysts see this precedent as a strong argument against rumours being spread by Soviet sources in Moscow that Mr. Chernenko could stand down.

According to these rumours, the party chief could offer his resignation at a meeting next month of the full Central Committee.

Mr. Gorbachev's appearance Sunday was the latest evidence of his position as Kremlin number two and heir apparent.

In stark contrast to the style of Mr. Chernenko and the other elderly members of the 10-man politburo, Mr. Gorbachev appeared relaxed, confident and in good humour when he greeted foreign correspondents at the polling station.

Tough times ahead for Nigeria, Buhari says

LONDON (R) — Life in Nigeria will be tough in the next three years as the country enters a critical economic period, Nigerian leader Maj. Gen. Mohammad Buhari said in an interview with the Financial Times newspaper Monday.

"I don't want anybody to relax. The next three years will not be a picnic," he told the newspaper's correspondents in Lagos.

Gen. Buhari, who came to power in a military coup on New Year's Eve 1983, said he was pleased with the country's achievements over the last year, "although the situation still leaves a lot of room for improvement".

The economy's downward slide had been halted, but the government had failed to check the rise in inflation and unemployment, he said.

Asked whether Nigeria was any closer to reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Gen. Buhari replied: "We need the IMF, there is no doubt about it."

But he added that the IMF's terms were too harsh. If, for instance, Nigeria were to devalue the naira to the extent demanded, "we will have the riots that seem to signify the arrival of the IMF in most developing countries", he said.

He said he had no timetable for a return to civilian rule and ex-President Shagari would certainly stand trial if investigations revealed "any shortcomings".

The first step in the handover from military rule would not be an election but a referendum on the type of system Nigerians wanted to establish, he told the Financial Times.

Speaking of Nigeria's relations with Britain since the abortive kidnapping attempt on former Nigerian Transport Minister Umaru Dikko, Gen. Buhari said Nigeria was "disappointed".

"The case of Dikko... confirms Britain is not treating Nigeria with the seriousness that Nigerians expect," he said.

An attempt was made to smuggle the exiled minister out of Britain in an air crate last July. Nigeria has requested his extradition but Gen. Buhari refused to comment on his reaction if the request were refused.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ QJ65 ♣ Q9872 ♦ A853
- The bidding has proceeded:
- West North East South
- 1 2 3 Pass
- What action do you take?
- A. — If you bid two no trump, you see something in the South hand that we don't. From which suit do you expect to make your tricks? Don't panic and try to rescue partner. He should have a reasonable suit for his two-level overcall, and your few goodies could easily be enough for him to make his contract.
- Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ AK7 ♣ QK93 ♦ KJ83 ♠ 104
- Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
- A. — You have the strength but not the shape for a jump to three no trump — that action is reserved for hands with a 4-3-3-3 pattern. Here, you could easily have a slam in any suit or no trump, so you should bid your hand as naturally as possible. We think poorly of any response other than one diamond.
- Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- ♠ QJ762 ♣ 9 ♦ QJ3752 ♠ 7
- Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
- A. — You have a hand with tremendous offensive potential but little or no defense. This might not even be your hand! Jump to four spades. You might make it, or you could easily shut the opponents out of game, possibly even a slam.
- Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ Q763 ♣ A98 ♦ AJ76 ♠ J4
- The bidding has proceeded:
- North East South West
- 1 2 3 4
- What do you bid now?
- A. — You have excellent support and what could prove to be quite a useful hand for partner. However, game is unlikely unless partner can make a voluntary move. Therefore, there is no need for you to do anything more dramatic than raise to two spades.
- Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- ♠ Q4 ♣ AQ6 ♦ A832 ♠ J1082
- The bidding has proceeded:
- North East South West
- 1 2 3 4
- What do you bid now?
- A. — If partner doesn't have six spades on this auction, he has erred. You have only one diamond stopper and no guarantee that your side can take nine tricks before the opponents get five. Since partner has shown a reluctance to play no trump, you should respect his warning and raise to four spades.
- Q.6 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ AQ105 ♣ J9652 ♦ 7 ♠ 872
- The bidding has proceeded:
- North East South West
- 1 2 3 4
- What do you bid now?
- A. — You have excellent support and what could prove to be quite a useful hand for partner. However, game is unlikely unless partner can make a voluntary move. Therefore, there is no need for you to do anything more dramatic than raise to two spades.